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Survey participation in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), Wave 1-7

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Survey participation in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), Wave 1-7

Based on Release 7.0.0

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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 general overview about both the participation of respondents in their first (baseline/refreshment) interview and the longitudinal development of the survey so far. All numbers and figures reported in this documentation are based on information from the SHARE sample management system (SMS) and additional national gross sample information using Release 7.0.0. After a brief summary of the different sampling designs that have been 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.

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

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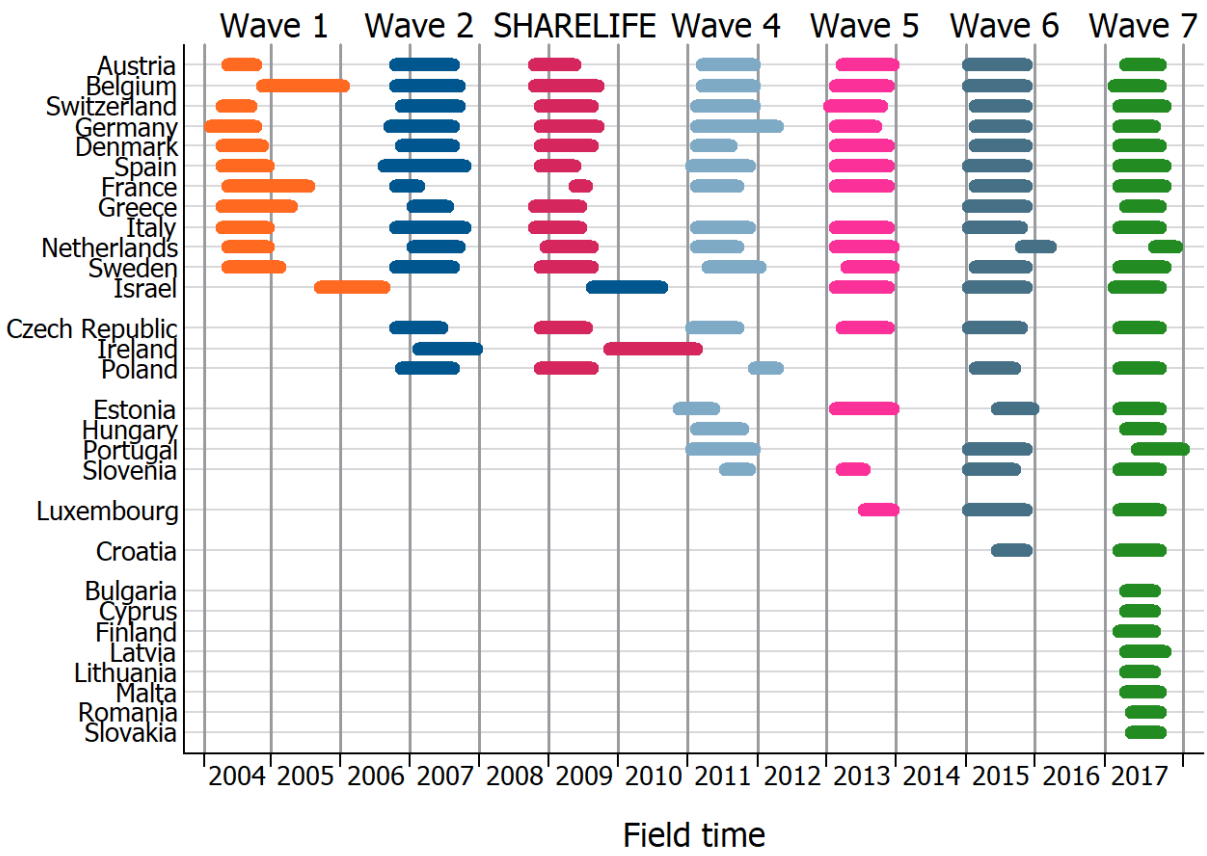
1. Introduction

This data documentation is meant to provide users of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE; Börsch-Supan et al., 2013) with a general overview about 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, Malter, & Sand, 2015; Malter, 2013; Malter & Sand, 2017; Sand, 2019). SHARE is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel study, which is 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. While data from 20 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain (including the region of Girona), Sweden, and Switzerland) plus Israel have been collected up to Wave 6, eight new countries joined SHARE in Wave 7: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, and Slovakia. Thus, with Wave 7 SHARE achieved full coverage of all 26 Continental EU Member States in addition to Switzerland and Israel (see Figure 1).[1] With the public release of Wave 7 in April 2019, the data available to the scientific community are currently based on more than 375,000 interviews administered on nearly 140,000 respondents who participated in the survey so far.

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, survey participation patterns are presented separately for baseline and refreshment samples as well as for longitudinal samples from countries that have already participated in SHARE before. Whereas in the context of baseline and refreshment samples the focus is on response behavior to the initial survey request, regarding 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 about 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 the SHARE sample management system (SMS) and additional national gross sample information using Release 7.0.0.

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 any frame has to 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 SMS 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, SHARE response rates across all countries cannot be directly compared with response rates in other surveys that do not need any screening.

Table 1 provides an overview about the type of sampling frame and whether it contains information on age or not, the sampling unit, the wave when a baseline/refreshment sample was drawn, as well as important sampling design features. As can be seen, there are no individual units (with information on age) available in Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, and Slovakia. Therefore, a screening procedure is necessary in these countries. In Belgium and Switzerland screening for age-eligibility is no longer needed since Wave 4, as both 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

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

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, 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. Information on strata and/or PSUs are hence missing (for more information on the specific characteristics of the used sampling designs, see Bergmann, Bethmann, & De Luca, 2019; Bergmann, De Luca, & Scherpenzeel, 2017; De Luca, Rossetti, & Malter, 2015).

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	Persons from institutions included
Austria	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004)	yes	yes	yes
	Register for specific use	B	no	4 (2010)	yes	yes	yes
Belgium	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004), 2 (2006) only French speaking part	yes	yes	yes
	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014)	yes	yes	yes
Bulgaria	Population or civil register	H	only if 50+	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
Croatia	Register for specific use	I	yes	6 (2014)	yes	yes	yes
Cyprus	Telephone directory	H	no	7 (2016)	no	yes	no
Czech Republic	Telephone directory	H	no	2 (2006)	yes	yes	yes
	Register for specific use	B	no	4 (2010), 5 (2012)	yes	yes	not in Wave 5
Denmark	Population or civil register	H	yes	1 (2004)	no	no	yes
	Population or civil register	I	yes	2 (2006), 3 (2008), 4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014)	no	no	not in Wave 4, 5, 6
Estonia	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 6 (2014)	no	yes	not in Wave 6
Finland	Population or civil register	I	yes	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
France	Population or civil register	H	only if 50+	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014)	yes	yes	not in Wave 6
Germany	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 5 (2012)	yes	no	yes
Greece	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004), 2 (2006)	no	yes	yes
	Geographical listing/database	B	no	6 (2014)	yes	yes	no
Hungary	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010)	yes	yes	yes
Ireland	Population or civil register	I	yes	2 (2006)	-	-	yes
Israel	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2005), 2 (2009), 5 (2012), 7 (2016)	yes	yes	not in Wave 2, 5, 7
Italy	Register for specific use	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014)	yes	yes	not in Wave 5, 6
Latvia	Population or civil register	H	only if 50+	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
Lithuania	Register for specific use	B	no	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
Luxembourg	Register for specific use	I	yes	5 (2012), 6 (2014)	no	yes	not in Wave 6
Malta	Register for specific use	I	yes	7 (2016)	no	yes	yes
Netherlands	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010)	yes	no	yes
Poland	Population or civil register	I	yes	2 (2006)	no	yes	no
				6 (2014), 7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
Portugal	Register for specific use	H	no	4 (2010)	yes	yes	yes

Romania	Register for specific use and geographical listing/database	H	only if 50+/ no	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
Slovakia	Geographical listing/database (plus telephone directory)	H	no	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no
Slovenia	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014)	yes	yes	no
Spain	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012) only Girona	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 5 (2012)	no	only Wave 1, 2	yes
Switzerland	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004), 2 (2006)	no	yes	not in Wave 1
	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010)	no	yes	yes

Note: I: Individual address (name + address); H: Households (last name + address); B: Building address (address without name).
Gross sample information for Ireland is incomplete.

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. The choice of conducting a refreshment sample is largely up to the countries, because they have to apply for their own funding to their national funding agencies. Because funding and sampling resources vary across participating countries, SHARE does not define a minimum net sample size. Instead, SHARE advises countries to maximize their net sample size with the available budget.

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 in Munich 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 & 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) containing the list of all selected households, associated sampling frame information needed for the computation of selection probabilities (e.g., household-level and population-level information about stratification and clustering), household-level information about regional codes (NUTS and LAU), and (if any) additional auxiliary variables that could be used for ex-post compensation of non-sampling errors.

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

[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).

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 about 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 nature of the sampling frame adopted. In one group of countries (Belgium since Wave 4, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta[4], the Netherlands, Poland, 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

[4] Malta uses an electoral register with information on age. However, due to uncertainties in the available data, this information is checked during the CV.

another group of countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, as well as Belgium 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, 2016). 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 SMS 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 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.

[5] Ireland is missing in Figure 2, because the necessary gross sample information is incomplete. Consequently, we have not calculated response rates in the next section.
[6] In Wave 3, no new baseline or refreshment samples have been conducted.
[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 2: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 1 by classification of sample units

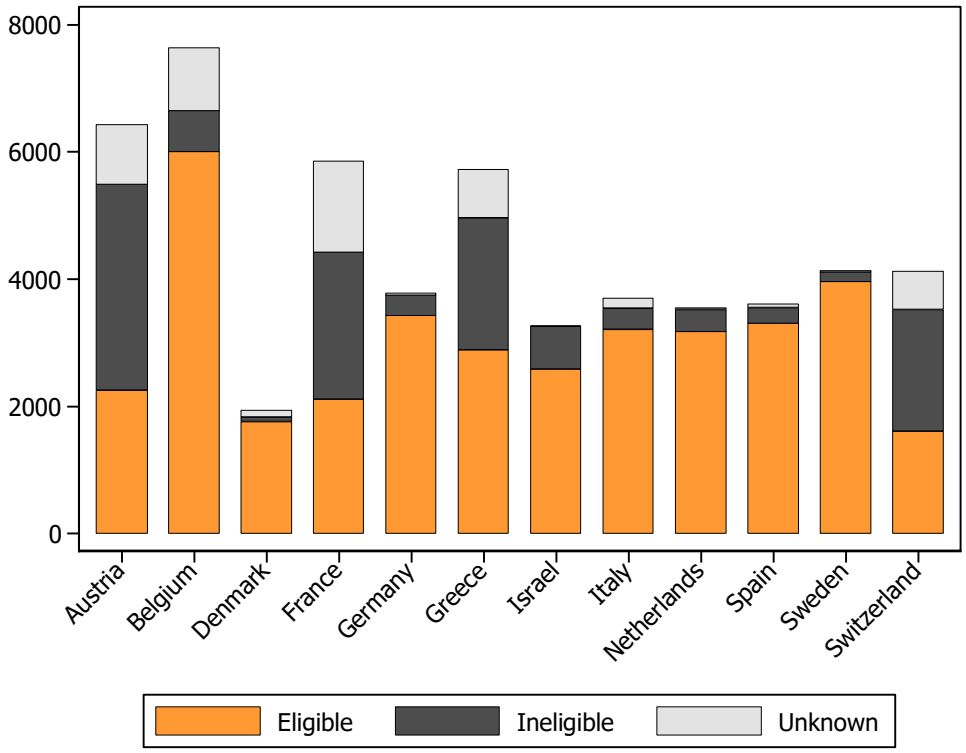


Figure 3: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 2 by classification of sample units

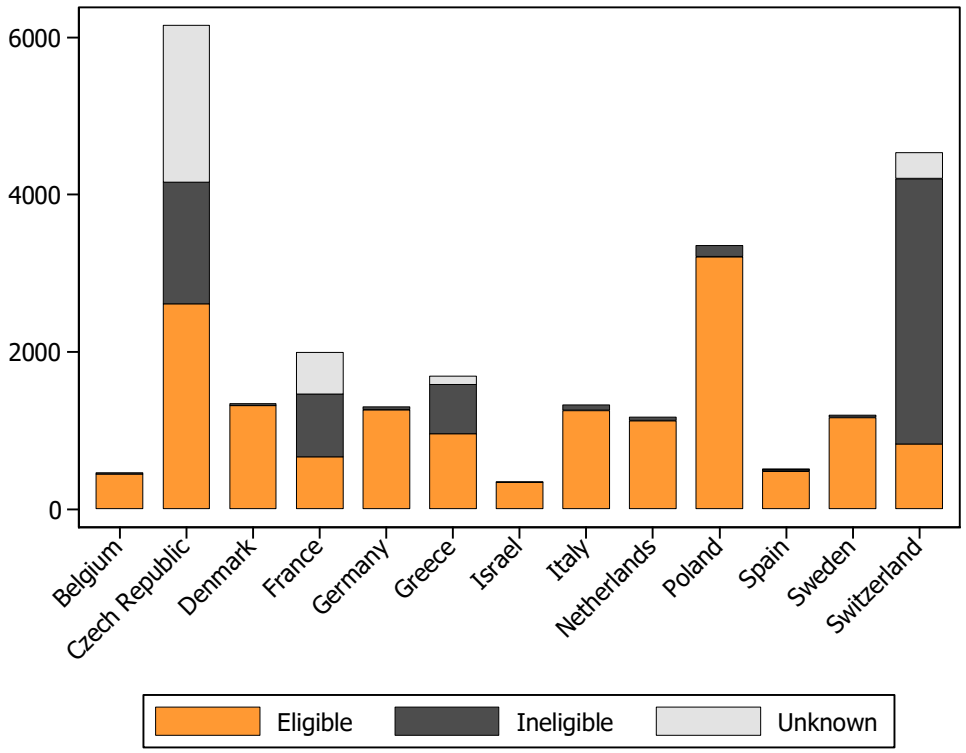


Figure 4: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 4 by classification of sample units

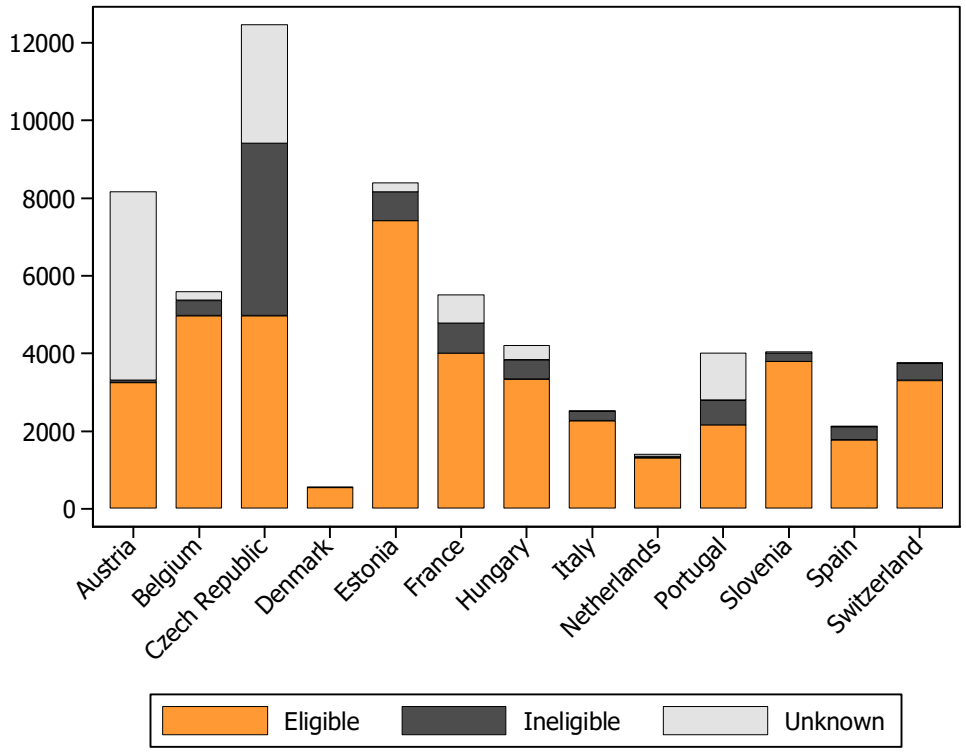


Figure 5: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 5 by classification of sample units

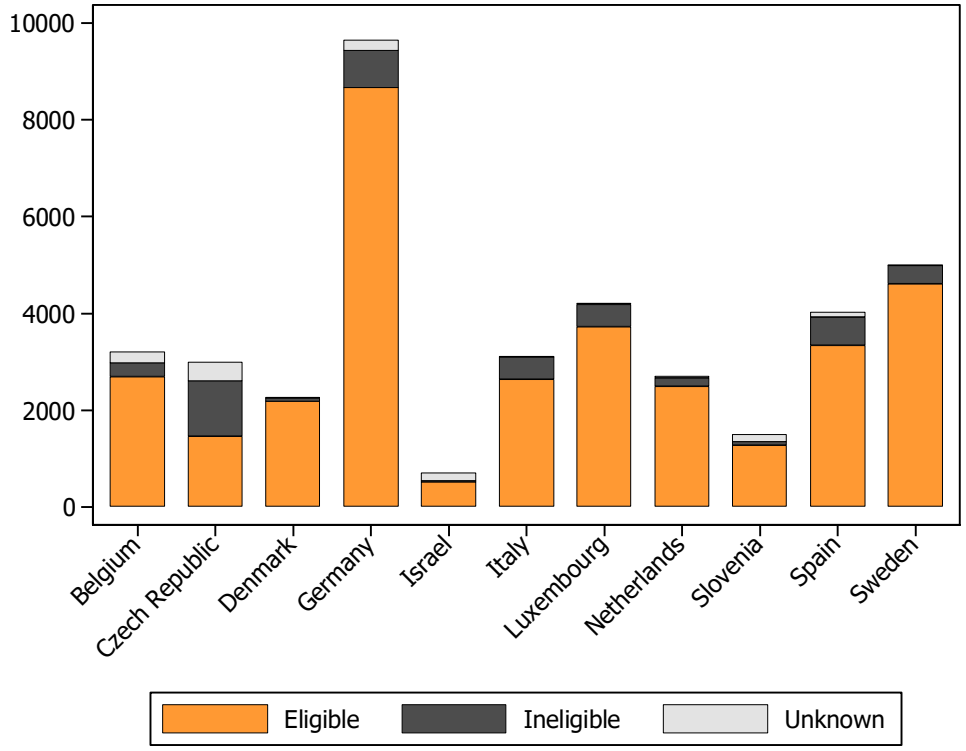


Figure 6: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 6 by classification of sample units

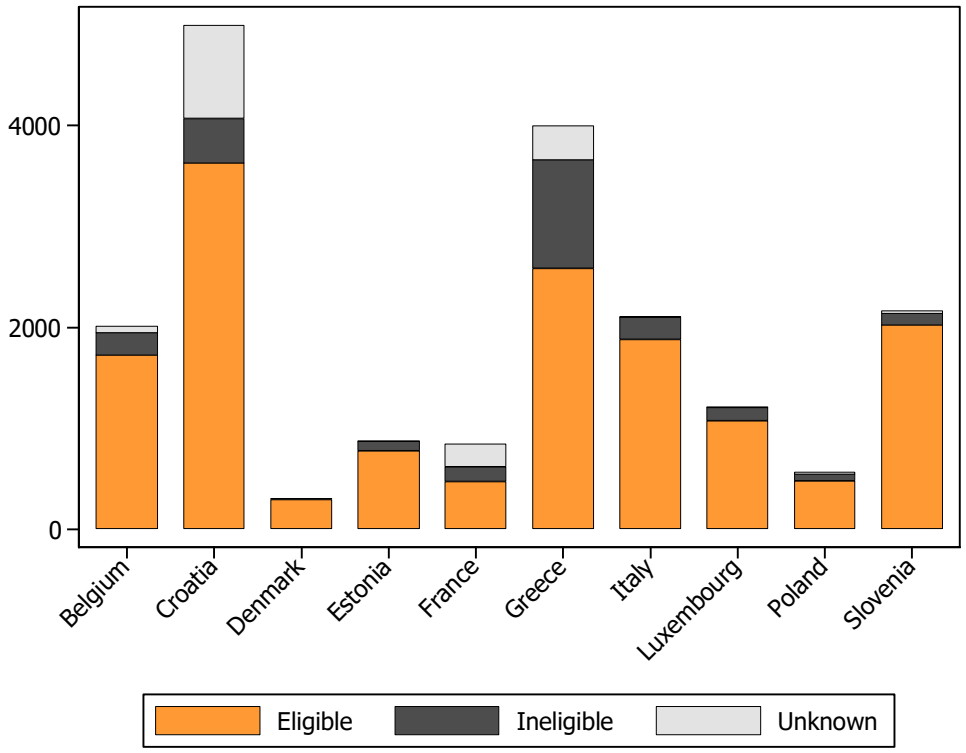
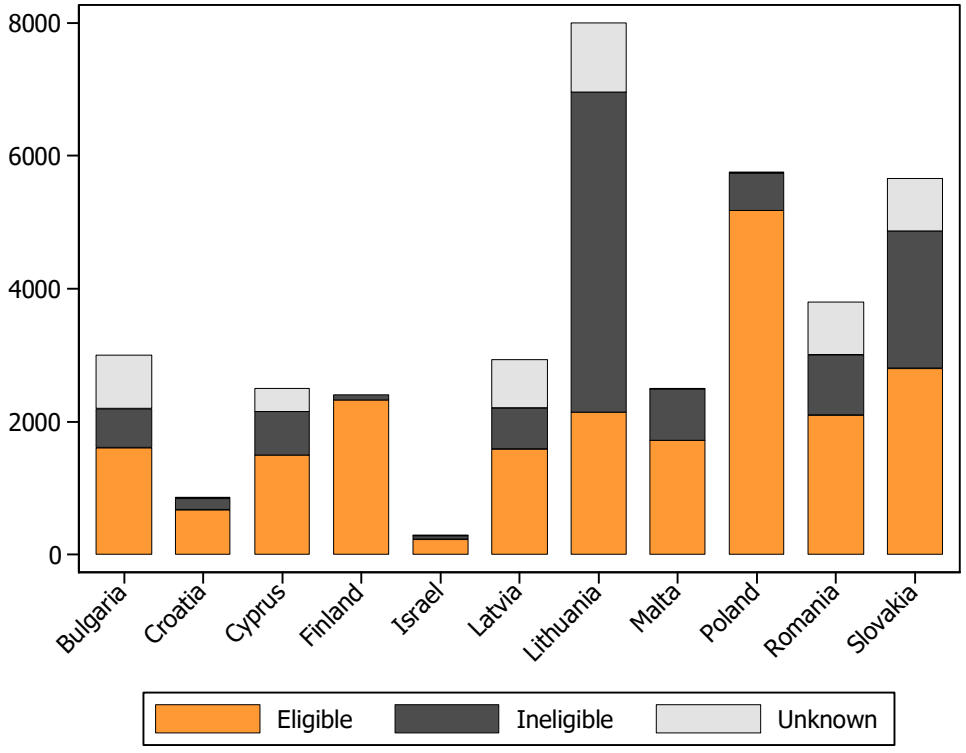


Figure 7: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 7 by classification of sample units



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 about 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 as entirely eligible, partially eligible, or entirely ineligible. Following the AAPOR (2016) 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.

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

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) plus unknown, other (UO)).

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

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.

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

[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.

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 presented response rates.

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 (in particular non-European) surveys. Overall, most of the rates are in line with or even above the numbers of comparable surveys in the same period (e.g., ESS7, 2016).

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

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)	Household response rate (RR3)	Household response rate (RR5)
Austria[a]	1169	36.6%	44.3%	51.9%
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%	64.3%	64.5%
Italy	1771	52.5%	52.8%	55.2%
Netherlands	1946	60.9%	60.9%	61.3%
Spain	1686	50.2%	50.2%	51.1%
Sweden	2137	53.7%	53.8%	53.9%
Switzerland[a]	706	32.0%	37.6%	44.0%
Total	*17114*	*52.2%*	*55.0%*	*60.1%*

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

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

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)	Household response rate (RR3)	Household response rate (RR5)
Belgium[a]	190	42.1%	42.1%	42.1%
Czech Republic[a]	1880	40.8%	48.6%	72.0%
Denmark	861	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]	560	52.2%	54.4%	58.2%
Israel	271	77.9%	77.9%	78.6%
Italy	639	50.9%	50.9%	50.9%
Netherlands	535	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%
Poland	1770	55.2%	55.2%	55.2%
Spain	282	58.4%	58.4%	58.7%
Sweden[b]	416	35.7%	35.7%	35.7%
Switzerland[a]	547	47.0%	61.0%	65.8%
Total	*6269*	*50.8%*	*54.5%*	*61.6%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Gross sample was partly drawn in Wave 1 (2004).
Average response rates are calculated by taking into account 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)	Household response rate (RR3)	Household response rate (RR5)
Austria[a]	3153	38.9%	39.2%	97.0%
Belgium	2142	40.8%	40.9%	42.7%
Czech Republic[a]	2851	35.5%	43.3%	57.4%
Denmark	278	51.6%	51.6%	51.6%
Estonia	4654	60.9%	61.1%	62.8%
France[a]	2593	54.9%	56.3%	64.8%
Hungary	2020	54.5%	55.2%	60.6%
Italy	925	40.9%	40.9%	40.9%
Netherlands	535	40.0%	40.0%	41.1%
Portugal[a]	1341	39.4%	42.8%	61.9%
Slovenia	2113	55.0%	55.0%	55.6%
Spain	1120	63.1%	63.1%	63.3%
Switzerland	1814	54.9%	54.9%	54.9%
Total	*17393*	*49.3%*	*50.7%*	*62.2%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average response rates are calculated by taking into account 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)	Household response rate (RR3)	Household response rate (RR5)
Belgium	992	34.0%	34.2%	36.6%
Czech Republic[a]	902	48.8%	53.9%	62.0%
Denmark	1300	59.5%	59.5%	59.6%
Germany	3029	34.1%	34.2%	34.9%
Israel	353	51.5%	51.9%	67.5%
Italy	1142	43.4%	43.4%	43.4%
Luxembourg	1214	32.5%	32.5%	32.7%
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	1813	39.3%	39.3%	39.4%
Total	*12730*	*44.1%*	*44.5%*	*46.2%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average response rates are calculated by taking into account 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)	Household response rate (RR3)	Household response rate (RR5)
Belgium	784	43.8%	43.9%	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]	1784	61.2%	63.3%	69.1%
Italy	845	44.9%	44.9%	45.0%
Luxembourg	325	30.3%	30.3%	30.3%
Poland	246	50.0%	50.2%	51.8%
Slovenia	924	45.1%	45.1%	45.6%
Total	*4957*	*46.7%*	*47.5%*	*51.3%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average response rates are calculated by taking into account 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)	Household response rate (RR3)	Household response rate (RR5)
Bulgaria[a]	1350	56.0%	61.6%	84.3%
Croatia	234	34.1%	34.3%	35.2%
Cyprus[a]	846	45.9%	48.7%	56.5%
Finland	1396	60.1%	60.1%	60.1%
Israel	108	47.0%	47.2%	48.0%
Latvia[a]	1308	56.4%	61.8%	82.5%
Lithuania[a]	1544	48.6%	62.9%	72.3%
Malta	796	46.0%	46.1%	46.4%
Poland	2162	41.7%	41.7%	41.8%
Romania[a]	1412	48.8%	53.2%	67.5%
Slovakia[a]	1287	35.9%	39.6%	46.1%
Total	*9572*	*49.8%*	*53.9%*	*62.8%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average response rates are calculated by taking into account 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 actually only marginally smaller. This indicates that in many cases interviewers managed to actually interview all eligible persons within a household.

Table 8: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 1 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50 to 64	65 to 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]	1563	644	919	41	771	447	304	1.53	32.0%	38.7%	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	68	1561	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	1074	1375	112	1310	627	400	1.75	53.9%	53.9%	54.1%	83.9%
Italy	2552	1129	1423	47	1341	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	3049	1411	1638	53	1590	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%	38.3%	87.2%
Total	*30424*	*13518*	*16906*	*1153*	*15778*	*7991*	*5502*	*1.68*	*45.5%*	*48.1%*	*52.9%*	*87.1%*

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

Table 9: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 2 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50 to 64	65 to 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]	2736	1148	1588	100	1544	662	430	1.59	37.3%	44.5%	65.9%	91.5%
Denmark	1314	587	727	64	776	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]	935	418	517	104	541	191	99	1.73	50.4%	52.5%	56.2%	96.5%
Israel	411	164	247	3	113	136	159	1.60	73.8%	73.8%	74.5%	94.8%
Italy	994	469	525	45	513	301	135	1.77	44.7%	44.7%	44.7%	87.9%
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	432	198	234	29	260	79	64	1.77	50.5%	50.5%	50.8%	86.5%
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	*13377*	*5892*	*7485*	*579*	*7571*	*3104*	*2123*	*1.68*	*44.3%*	*47.5%*	*53.9%*	*86.8%*

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

Table 10: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 4 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50 to 64	65 to 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]	4439	1883	2556	204	2303	1276	656	1.53	35.8%	36.1%	89.2%	92.0%
Belgium	2948	1323	1625	147	1889	494	418	1.55	35.8%	35.9%	37.5%	87.7%
Czech Republic[a]	4156	1742	2414	170	2199	1105	677	1.57	33.0%	40.2%	53.3%	92.8%
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]	3587	1549	2038	207	1981	692	707	1.58	48.0%	49.3%	56.8%	87.6%
Hungary	3072	1318	1754	89	1690	820	473	1.58	52.4%	53.1%	58.3%	96.3%
Italy	1417	647	770	57	809	331	220	1.72	36.4%	36.4%	36.5%	89.1%
Netherlands	773	346	427	27	496	160	90	1.67	34.6%	34.6%	35.6%	86.5%
Portugal[a]	2020	866	1154	76	1059	554	331	1.68	35.3%	38.4%	55.5%	89.7%
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	2599	1195	1404	114	1431	664	390	1.69	46.5%	46.5%	46.6%	84.8%
Total	*36840*	*15839*	*21001*	*1411*	*19802*	*9256*	*6366*	*1.63*	*44.8%*	*46.0%*	*56.5%*	*90.5%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average 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 5 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50 to 64	65 to 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	1391	649	742	61	839	271	220	1.65	28.7%	28.9%	30.9%	84.2%
Czech Republic[a]	1317	550	767	42	663	405	207	1.57	45.4%	50.1%	57.7%	93.0%
Denmark	1928	887	1041	75	1067	522	264	1.71	51.6%	51.6%	51.6%	86.7%
Germany	4549	2125	2424	178	2609	1088	674	1.69	30.3%	30.4%	31.1%	88.9%
Israel	538	253	285	36	481	11	10	1.77	44.4%	44.7%	58.1%	86.1%
Italy	1710	767	943	66	937	433	273	1.61	40.4%	40.4%	40.4%	93.0%
Luxembourg	1610	755	855	24	939	391	255	1.69	25.5%	25.5%	25.6%	78.5%
Netherlands	1693	773	920	27	968	444	253	1.67	40.2%	40.2%	40.9%	82.2%
Slovenia	748	317	431	19	393	182	154	1.62	32.4%	32.5%	36.3%	79.3%
Spain	3295	1553	1742	105	1553	761	876	1.70	56.5%	56.8%	58.2%	94.0%
Sweden	2591	1240	1351	44	1188	900	458	1.68	33.5%	33.5%	33.5%	85.1%
Total	*21370*	*9869*	*11501*	*677*	*11637*	*5408*	*3644*	*1.67*	*39.1%*	*39.5%*	*41.0%*	*87.6%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average 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 6 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50 to 64	65 to 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	1061	472	589	80	656	181	144	1.60	36.7%	36.8%	37.7%	83.8%
Croatia	2495	1097	1398	66	1364	685	379	1.64	33.4%	34.1%	41.9%	95.7%
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	1.60	28.4%	30.8%	42.2%	85.2%
Greece[a]	2669	1157	1512	137	1465	553	512	1.61	57.0%	59.0%	64.4%	93.2%
Italy	1238	565	673	53	755	289	138	1.58	41.7%	41.7%	41.8%	92.9%
Luxembourg	413	181	232	9	247	111	46	1.71	22.5%	22.5%	22.5%	74.3%
Poland	365	173	192	25	338	2	0	1.69	43.9%	44.1%	45.4%	87.8%
Slovenia	1323	588	735	19	649	384	271	1.68	38.5%	38.5%	38.9%	85.4%
Total	*10774*	*4801*	*5973*	*529*	*6530*	*2215*	*1494*	*1.65*	*42.4%*	*43.1%*	*46.8%*	*90.5%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average 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 7 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50 to 64	65 to 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]	2006	839	1167	58	883	665	396	1.51	55.1%	60.6%	83.0%	98.4%
Croatia	346	156	190	6	177	108	55	1.65	30.5%	30.7%	31.6%	89.6%
Cyprus[a]	1233	495	738	38	433	400	362	1.65	40.5%	43.0%	49.9%	88.3%
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	41.8%	42.0%	42.7%	89.1%
Latvia[a]	1756	640	1116	49	804	478	423	1.43	53.0%	58.1%	77.5%	94.0%
Lithuania[a]	2035	730	1305	57	988	527	460	1.46	43.9%	56.8%	65.3%	90.3%
Malta	1261	552	709	20	563	460	217	1.68	43.4%	43.5%	43.7%	94.2%
Poland	3171	1438	1733	64	1762	829	516	1.66	36.9%	36.9%	37.0%	88.5%
Romania[a]	2114	898	1216	77	1107	568	360	1.60	45.6%	49.7%	63.0%	93.4%
Slovakia[a]	2077	951	1126	92	1357	456	159	1.64	35.3%	38.9%	45.3%	98.2%
Total	*18158*	*7686*	*10472*	*501*	*9121*	*5144*	*3366*	*1.59*	*44.4%*	*48.1%*	*56.2%*	*92.4%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Average 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 in order 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 are 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.

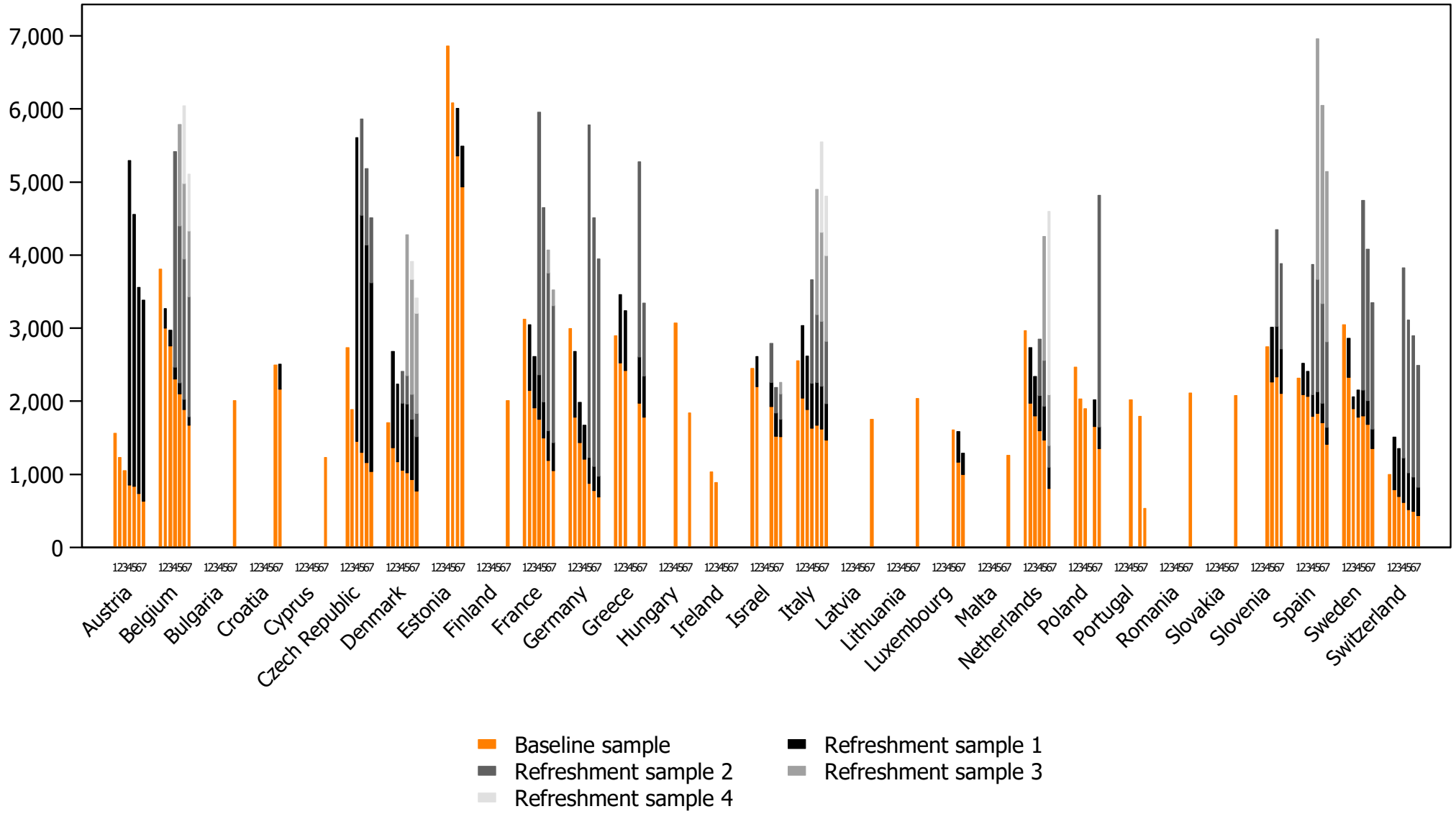
Based on these definitions, individual-level retention in the narrow sense is given by the proportion of respondents in subsample A, excluding any form of recovery (see Subsection 5.1). Additionally, retention in subsamples B and C informs about how well SHARE managed to get respondents back in the study who had already dropped out, while retention in subsample

[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).

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). 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 focus on the overall sample size development in SHARE, retention including former respondents is the most informative with respect to evaluate 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 Subsection 5.2).

As a starting point, Figure 8 provides an overview about 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 illustrate the development of the various samples. The underlying numbers can be found in Table 36 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 (Kneip, et al., 2015) found only little if any evidence for selective attrition bias in SHARE. Only the oldest-old show a somewhat higher probability to drop out, which actually might rather be a problem 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 & Rossetti, 2019 for details on the construction of these weights).

Figure 8: 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 14, 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), as well as Poland and Portugal (both no participation in Wave 5) 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. Especially the last aspect plays a key role as some countries have very strict data protection requirements that complicate future participation of interviewed persons. In Germany, for example, all respondents have to 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 Table 14 and Table 15). Another reason applies to the Swedish Wave 2 sample (see Table 15, 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 (see also Table 20 and Table 25). Moreover, the drop in retention between Wave 5 and Wave 6 in the Netherlands is due to severe cuts in funding that made it necessary to conduct

[10] Other gaps are due to the following reasons: Ireland only participated in Waves 2 and 3; Wave 7 data for the Netherlands and Portugal have not been released yet.

the interviews in Wave 6 in a different mode (see Das, De Bruijne, Janssen, & Kalwij, 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 enormous challenges of such a change for an ongoing face-to-face panel study of respondents who were at least 50 years old 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 suggesting a high overall panel stability that is comparable to other studies with even shorter time intervals between interviews.

Table 14: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 1 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%	71.3%	74.6%	78.3%	81.3%	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%	74.8%	84.5%
Italy	71.4%	87.1%	84.8%	88.0%	89.3%	90.6%
Netherlands	62.3%	75.0%	78.9%	85.1%	47.3%	
Spain	68.5%	83.3%	80.1%	89.2%	88.3%	86.3%
Sweden	70.6%	70.6%	73.4%	79.4%	85.2%	81.5%
Switzerland	74.6%	83.5%	87.0%	86.3%	89.4%	88.7%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 15: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 2 samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 2-3)	Retention (Wave 3-4)	Retention (Wave 4-5)	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)
Belgium	76.8%	72.8%	80.8%	82.4%	81.5%
Czech Republic	65.9%	74.8%	85.8%	86.8%	89.9%
Denmark	78.5%	81.2%	90.0%	87.1%	89.8%
France	70.7%	75.8%	66.6%	70.9%	80.4%
Germany	58.4%	76.2%	71.4%	91.0%	88.0%
Greece	86.7%			73.1%	89.1%
Ireland	69.2%				
Israel			78.3%	86.4%	79.9%
Italy	71.7%	80.4%	80.9%	87.1%	81.1%
Netherlands	65.4%	76.9%	85.7%	50.2%	
Poland	73.5%	88.7%		85.8%	88.1%
Spain	74.5%	76.2%	88.4%	86.2%	86.9%
Sweden	39.3%	75.3%	76.3%	78.1%	80.9%
Switzerland	83.7%	88.9%	83.8%	89.4%	82.3%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.
The Swedish sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3.

Table 16: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 4 samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 4-5)	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)
Austria	80.2%	81.8%	81.8%
Belgium	70.4%	79.4%	81.3%
Czech Republic	74.4%	84.0%	81.5%
Denmark	85.6%	84.8%	85.9%
Estonia	85.6%	84.6%	87.6%
France	69.6%	73.1%	77.6%
Hungary			58.5%
Italy	60.7%	82.0%	86.4%
Netherlands	76.7%	42.0%	
Portugal		80.2%	
Slovenia	73.3%	85.4%	85.4%
Spain	82.7%	84.7%	81.7%
Switzerland	77.1%	85.6%	82.6%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 17: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 5 samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)
Belgium	70.8%	78.6%
Czech Republic	75.7%	81.1%
Denmark	79.6%	83.3%
Germany	73.3%	83.2%
Israel	62.1%	75.6%
Italy	68.5%	84.2%
Luxembourg	69.6%	73.4%
Netherlands	38.3%	
Slovenia	80.9%	84.3%
Spain	77.3%	77.5%
Sweden	76.4%	79.1%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 18: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 6 samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 6-7)
Belgium	70.4%
Croatia	84.6%
Denmark	81.0%
Estonia	82.2%
France	64.9%
Greece	82.8%
Italy	62.0%
Luxembourg	65.1%
Poland	74.8%
Slovenia	82.9%

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 remarkable over time in all countries resulting in a very high overall panel stability after several waves. Other than that, 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 additionally calculated annualized retention rates that take gaps as well as the biennial interval between waves in SHARE into consideration.

Table 19: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 1 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 (annualized)
Austria	74.3%	82.1%	83.9%	102.5%	97.0%	91.2%	93.8%
Belgium	76.3%	91.5%	86.1%	94.3%	93.7%	93.6%	94.3%
Denmark	77.0%	88.0%	94.8%	103.7%	98.8%	93.3%	96.0%
France	67.0%	89.8%	95.4%	89.3%	83.1%	92.4%	92.5%
Germany	55.1%	81.3%	86.8%	74.4%	91.1%	90.5%	88.7%
Greece	86.3%	95.2%			85.8%	105.2%	97.5%
Israel	75.6%			91.1%	85.3%	107.2%	96.2%
Italy	71.4%	92.6%	89.0%	104.0%	101.5%	98.5%	96.0%
Netherlands	62.3%	90.8%	90.1%	94.4%	56.9%		87.9%
Spain	68.5%	96.9%	90.6%	108.1%	101.2%	93.1%	96.0%
Sweden	70.6%	81.5%	96.5%	108.4%	102.0%	85.7%	94.8%
Switzerland	74.6%	87.9%	89.5%	86.8%	98.2%	91.9%	93.7%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 20: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 2 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 (annualized)
Belgium	76.8%	75.7%	92.9%	97.9%	85.2%	92.3%
Czech Republic	65.9%	77.7%	94.5%	95.8%	96.5%	92.3%
Denmark	78.5%	86.4%	107.3%	91.6%	94.4%	95.5%
France	70.7%	87.1%	79.8%	84.6%	95.5%	91.2%
Germany	58.4%	86.0%	75.2%	92.1%	88.6%	88.9%
Greece	86.7%			79.1%	98.1%	96.1%
Ireland	69.2%					83.2%
Israel			78.3%	104.0%	85.3%	94.1%
Italy	71.7%	85.0%	95.1%	103.4%	90.5%	94.1%
Netherlands	65.4%	88.3%	94.1%	61.9%		87.3%
Poland	73.5%	95.6%		94.7%	92.1%	95.2%
Spain	74.5%	87.0%	105.8%	97.8%	92.4%	95.3%
Sweden	39.8%	215.8%	97.4%	96.4%	86.8%	96.5%
Switzerland	83.7%	91.2%	84.0%	95.7%	85.8%	93.8%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.
The Swedish sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3 but only in Wave 4.

Table 21: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 4 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 (annualized)
Austria	80.2%	88.4%	100.7%	94.5%
Belgium	70.4%	89.9%	89.1%	90.9%
Czech Republic	74.4%	93.7%	91.0%	92.7%
Denmark	85.6%	86.1%	92.1%	93.7%
Estonia	85.6%	92.4%	98.4%	95.9%
France	69.6%	80.5%	88.7%	89.0%
Hungary			58.5%	91.5%
Italy	60.7%	95.1%	100.2%	91.3%
Netherlands	76.7%	46.6%		77.3%
Portugal		80.2%		89.6%
Slovenia	73.3%	98.6%	92.3%	93.5%
Spain	82.7%	93.1%	90.5%	94.1%
Switzerland	77.1%	92.0%	87.5%	92.4%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 22: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 5 samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Belgium	70.8%	87.3%	88.7%
Czech Republic	75.7%	88.7%	90.5%
Denmark	79.6%	88.3%	91.6%
Germany	73.3%	87.6%	89.5%
Israel	62.1%	96.6%	88.0%
Italy	68.5%	96.8%	90.3%
Luxembourg	69.6%	81.8%	86.8%
Netherlands	38.3%		61.9%
Slovenia	80.9%	88.2%	91.9%
Spain	77.3%	89.5%	91.2%
Sweden	76.4%	84.3%	89.6%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 23: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 6 samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Belgium	70.4%	83.9%
Croatia	84.6%	92.0%
Denmark	81.0%	90.0%
Estonia	82.2%	90.7%
France	64.9%	80.5%
Greece	82.8%	91.0%
Italy	62.0%	78.8%
Luxembourg	65.1%	80.7%
Netherlands		
Poland	74.8%	86.5%
Slovenia	82.9%	91.1%

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 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 very 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 taken into account when comparing rates across countries.

Table 24: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 1 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%	87.6%	85.4%	103.7%	97.6%	91.7%
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%	83.2%	87.2%	75.2%	91.6%	91.1%
Greece	87.2%	97.7%			86.2%	105.6%
Israel	89.8%			94.5%	86.5%	107.7%
Italy	80.0%	94.9%	89.9%	107.2%	103.1%	98.9%
Netherlands	66.4%	93.6%	92.4%	95.2%	57.4%	
Spain	90.2%	103.7%	92.6%	109.8%	102.1%	93.2%
Sweden	76.3%	83.9%	98.9%	110.5%	103.2%	86.0%
Switzerland	79.0%	89.8%	91.0%	87.5%	98.6%	92.4%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 25: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 2 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)
Belgium	79.0%	78.2%	94.2%	97.9%	85.2%
Czech Republic	68.9%	79.9%	94.9%	96.5%	96.7%
Denmark	81.1%	88.0%	108.5%	92.4%	94.6%
France	77.9%	89.9%	81.6%	86.3%	95.7%
Germany	61.1%	87.2%	78.7%	94.1%	88.9%
Greece	87.4%			79.3%	98.4%
Ireland	86.1%				
Israel			80.8%	104.6%	85.3%
Italy	73.5%	86.0%	98.8%	103.9%	90.5%
Netherlands	71.2%	90.8%	98.1%	63.5%	
Poland	82.4%	97.9%		95.6%	92.4%
Spain	79.9%	88.0%	108.4%	97.8%	93.2%
Sweden	43.9%	232.9%	104.1%	98.2%	87.8%
Switzerland	90.5%	94.3%	84.7%	96.5%	86.9%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.
The Swedish sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3 but only in Wave 4.

Table 26: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 4 samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)
Austria	83.8%	89.6%	101.7%
Belgium	72.9%	91.4%	90.4%
Czech Republic	78.1%	95.5%	92.6%
Denmark	89.0%	87.9%	93.5%
Estonia	88.6%	93.2%	98.9%
France	74.2%	82.6%	89.4%
Hungary			59.8%
Italy	65.6%	98.6%	101.3%
Netherlands	81.1%	48.5%	
Portugal		88.7%	
Slovenia	82.3%	105.6%	94.4%
Spain	86.1%	93.9%	91.0%
Switzerland	80.5%	93.7%	88.3%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 27: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 5 samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)
Belgium	74.6%	88.6%
Czech Republic	79.0%	89.7%
Denmark	81.4%	89.5%
Germany	74.8%	89.1%
Israel	65.4%	100.6%
Italy	71.4%	98.1%
Luxembourg	72.6%	87.0%
Netherlands	41.1%	
Slovenia	92.1%	91.2%
Spain	82.2%	90.5%
Sweden	79.9%	85.2%

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Wave 6 were conducted in a different mode.

Table 28: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 6 samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)
Belgium	73.0%
Croatia	86.7%
Denmark	83.1%
Estonia	86.2%
France	68.0%
Greece	86.0%
Italy	65.9%
Luxembourg	69.7%
Poland	81.1%
Slovenia	88.1%

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

SHARE requests interviewers to confirm the decease 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. The proxy-respondent can be a family member, a household member, a neighbor or any other person of the closer social network of the deceased respondent. Table 29 shows the number of end-of-life interviews that have been conducted in each longitudinal sample 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 29: End-of-life interviews in Wave 7 by country and sample

Country	Sampling wave	Number of end-of-life interviews	Percentage of end-of-life interviews from validated deceased persons
Austria	1	311	71.7%
Austria	4	335	73.3%
Belgium	1	526	72.5%
Belgium	2	21	65.6%
Belgium	4	213	60.5%
Belgium	5	47	62.7%
Belgium	6	12	44.4%
Croatia	6	101	75.4%
Czech Republic	2	393	81.9%
Czech Republic	4	487	80.0%
Czech Republic	5	108	86.4%
Denmark	1	431	84.0%
Denmark	2	206	83.1%
Denmark	4	6	66.7%
Denmark	5	97	75.2%
Denmark	6	0	0.0%
Estonia	4	1068	81.8%
Estonia	6	7	50.0%
France	1	440	60.3%
France	2	76	54.3%
France	4	213	57.3%
France	6	1	100.0%
Germany	1	221	52.4%
Germany	2	45	42.9%
Germany	5	164	53.2%
Greece	1	664	91.2%
Greece	2	117	75.0%
Greece	6	36	73.5%
Hungary	4	300	65.9%
Ireland	2	36	54.5%
Israel	1	544	88.0%
Israel	2	86	88.7%
Israel	5	8	61.5%
Italy	1	529	76.6%
Italy	2	129	71.7%
Italy	4	115	81.6%
Italy	5	80	69.6%
Italy	6	12	85.7%
Luxembourg	5	52	54.7%
Luxembourg	6	1	100.0%
Netherlands	1	245	57.8%
Netherlands	2	35	53.8%
Netherlands	4	13	59.1%
Netherlands	5	4	80.0%
Poland	2	564	70.1%
Poland	6	3	23.1%
Portugal	4	146	70.5%
Slovenia	4	276	65.7%
Slovenia	5	49	69.0%
Slovenia	6	40	65.6%

Spain	1	838	77.5%
Spain	2	89	80.2%
Spain	4	251	84.8%
Spain	5	324	83.7%
Sweden	1	690	78.4%
Sweden	2	84	73.0%
Sweden	5	88	63.3%
Switzerland	1	116	75.8%
Switzerland	2	68	76.4%
Switzerland	4	139	68.8%
Total		*12300*	*75.1%*

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 30: 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]	6426	2253	3234	939
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	3268	2585	671	12
Italy	3700	3209	328	163
Netherlands	3545	3174	348	23
Spain	3605	3302	244	59
Sweden	4126	3964	150	12
Switzerland[a]	4118	1605	1915	598
Total	*53707*	*36255*	*12319*	*5133*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 31: 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]	6153	2612	1545	1996
Denmark	1344	1320	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	1325	1255	70	0
Netherlands	1173	1127	46	0
Poland	3350	3207	143	0
Spain	507	480	24	3
Sweden	1198	1166	32	0
Switzerland[a]	4533	831	3369	333
Total	*25387*	*15681*	*6727*	*2979*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 32: 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]	8157	3252	50	4855
Belgium	5591	4962	393	236
Czech Republic[a]	12466	4965	4446	3055
Denmark	563	539	24	0
Estonia	8388	7416	751	221
France[a]	5500	4000	774	726
Hungary	4203	3334	494	375
Italy	2500	2260	239	1
Netherlands	1395	1302	56	37
Portugal[a]	4014	2168	611	1235
Slovenia	4045	3799	201	45
Spain	2124	1770	349	5
Switzerland	3750	3303	445	2
Total	*62696*	*43070*	*8833*	*10793*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 33: 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	3201	2689	291	221
Czech Republic[a]	2994	1454	1147	393
Denmark	2255	2183	71	1
Germany	9636	8667	760	209
Israel	702	523	17	162
Italy	3100	2631	468	1
Luxembourg	4200	3718	468	14
Netherlands	2697	2481	173	43
Slovenia	1500	1272	73	155
Spain	4017	3331	587	99
Sweden	4999	4602	390	7
Total	*39301*	*33551*	*4445*	*1305*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 34: 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	2012	1724	225	63
Croatia	4990	3631	437	922
Denmark	302	290	12	0
Estonia	875	772	96	7
France[a]	845	468	148	229
Greece[a]	3998	2581	1082	335
Italy	2100	1878	219	3
Luxembourg	1207	1072	134	1
Poland	563	475	71	17
Slovenia	2160	2026	109	25
Total	*19052*	*14917*	*2533*	*1602*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 35: 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]	3000	1602	590	808
Croatia	862	664	175	23
Cyprus[a]	2498	1497	656	345
Finland	2400	2324	76	0
Israel	285	225	55	5
Latvia[a]	2934	1585	613	736
Lithuania[a]	8000	2136	4824	1040
Malta	2494	1717	765	12
Poland	5754	5170	565	19
Romania[a]	3800	2093	905	802
Slovakia[a]	5661	2790	2075	796
Total	*37688*	*21803*	*11299*	*4586*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 36: Sample size development in SHARE

Country	Sampling wave	Released main interviews							Released end-of-life interviews					
		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7
Austria	1	1563	1197	999	808	758	690	583	36	50	45	80	50	50
Austria	4				4439	3620	2707	2623				98	108	129
Belgium	1	3810	2960	2659	2218	2005	1784	1571	40	99	86	97	102	102
Belgium	2		267	206	156	142	135	113		5	5	5	4	2
Belgium	4				2948	2099	1818	1581				50	101	62
Belgium	5					1391	1017	874					20	27
Belgium	6						1061	763						12
Bulgaria	7							2006						
Croatia	6						2495	2062						101
Croatia	7							346						
Cyprus	7							1233						
Czech Republic	2		2736	1817	1370	1201	1074	978		67	81	99	85	61
Czech Republic	4				4156	3122	2790	2410				124	190	173
Czech Republic	5					1317	992	831					49	59
Denmark	1	1706	1316	1105	983	934	831	717	50	65	74	87	97	58
Denmark	2		1314	1039	867	896	781	698		26	47	45	47	41
Denmark	4				437	388	340	314				1	1	4
Denmark	5					1928	1533	1311					36	61
Denmark	6						248	206						
Estonia	4				6863	5752	4992	4567				331	368	369
Estonia	6						646	550						7
Finland	7							2007						
France	1	3122	2087	1817	1666	1422	1138	979	59	92	85	78	52	74
France	2		903	683	598	474	398	366		20	16	14	11	15
France	4				3587	2610	2095	1772				52	60	101
France	6						316	214						1
Germany	1	2995	1728	1382	1164	847	756	664	52	55	41	28	20	25
Germany	2		900	537	455	355	325	282		13	13	3	9	7
Germany	5					4549	3331	2875					70	94
Greece	1	2897	2477	2289			1688	1584	50	131			284	199
Greece	2		935	803			571	525		14			66	37

Greece	6						2669	963						36
Hungary	4				3072			1538						300
Ireland	2		1035	855						36				
Israel	1	2449	2036			1759	1409	1415	164			165	113	102
Israel	2		411			302	278	219				30	38	18
Israel	5					538	348	346					4	4
Israel	7							152						
Italy	1	2552	1990	1814	1561	1573	1487	1372	52	75	70	100	134	98
Italy	2		994	714	592	560	549	465		17	22	25	33	32
Italy	4				1417	902	843	812				27	46	42
Italy	5					1710	1194	1118					27	53
Italy	6						1238	804						12
Latvia	7							1756						
Lithuania	7							2035						
Luxembourg	5					1610	1151	967					18	34
Luxembourg	6						413	287						1
Malta	7							1261						
Netherlands	1	2968	1922	1726	1540	1409	797		49	73	54	57	12	
Netherlands	2		761	532	476	452	284			10	7	15	3	
Netherlands	4				773	614	298					13		
Netherlands	5					1693	692						4	
Netherlands	6						2504							
Poland	2		2466	1939	1733		1461	1240		94	165		195	110
Poland	6						365	293						3
Poland	7							3171						
Portugal	4				2020		1675	508					117	29
Romania	7							2114						
Slovakia	7							2077						
Slovenia	4				2748	2210	2234	1985				52	100	124
Slovenia	5					748	667	581					22	27
Slovenia	6						1323	1126						40
Spain	1	2316	1991	1939	1671	1669	1514	1276	97	125	125	166	190	135
Spain	2		432	332	275	275	251	216		13	17	23	18	18
Spain	4				1781	1454	1284	1078				79	81	91

Spain	5					3295	2574	2141					136	188
Sweden	1	3049	2262	1803	1627	1632	1570	1254	63	95	156	166	114	96
Sweden	2		534	158	342	333	304	261		6	26	23	23	6
Sweden	5					2591	2032	1682					39	49
Switzerland	1	997	774	676	593	501	471	415	14	19	22	18	23	20
Switzerland	2		724	648	594	489	451	383		7	17	14	21	9
Switzerland	4				2599	2059	1881	1604				33	49	57
Total		*30424*	*37152*	*28472*	*58129*	*66188*	*72763*	*76520*	*726*	*1207*	*1174*	*2198*	*3390*	*3605*

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.