



Research Institute
Social Cohesion

RDC

RISC RegPan Documentation

RISC Regional Panel (FGZ Regionalpanel)

RISC RegPan W1-2 2021-23: Survey Design Wave 1 v2 Summary (English)





RISC Regional Panel

Established in 2021, the RISC Regional Panel (RISC RegPan) is a representative longitudinal study of individuals in private households of 12 communes in 4 German federal states (Bavaria, Lower-Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony-Anhalt), carried out in collaboration of the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC) sections Halle (coordination), Bielefeld, Göttingen, and Hannover.

The aim of the RISC RegPan Documentation is to thoroughly document the survey's data collection and data processing.

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Survey Design Summary

RISC Regional Panel

1st Wave 1 2021 v2

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RISC Regional Panel

1st Wave 2021 v2

Survey Design Summary

The RISC Regional Panel with the survey title “What holds us together?” is a self-administered longitudinal study in a mixed-mode design (online and paper), jointly designed and implemented by the sections Bielefeld, Göttingen, Hannover and Halle of the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC) and the Centouris Institute of the University of Passau. The aim of the study is to capture the relation between migration and cohesion in local societies. The survey is based on representative population samples of twelve German municipalities. The following summary describes the survey design and the response rate of the first wave of the RISC Regional Panel.

1 Sample

In a first step, twelve municipalities from Germany were selected. The selection of *K*, *A*, *E*, *B* and *C* was based on existing collaborations between the respective RISC Sections conducting the survey. All other municipalities were randomly selected according to size and federal state. This approach allows for systematic case comparisons between settlements of different sizes (village/small town, medium-sized town, large city) in different regions of Germany. On the one hand, the regional selection was influenced by the RISC locations in order to make use of local expertise and to strengthen existing cooperation and reciprocal exchange with practice partners in the respective municipalities. On the other hand, three municipalities each were to be located in northern, southern, eastern and western Germany in order to reflect the regional diversity of local political traditions and local variation in demography and social structure.

A one-stage random selection of municipalities, which is common in population surveys and divides the populated area of Germany into different areas and makes the selection in proportion to the population and stratified according to federal states, administrative districts and counties, would not have ensured this. Thus, the samples consist of the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia comprising *A* (major city), *D* (medium-sized city) and *L* (rural municipality)), Lower Saxony (*E*, *B*, *C*), Bavaria (*F*, *K*, *I*) and Saxony-Anhalt (*H*, *J*, *G*). Therefore, in all federal states selected, one major city (>100,001 inhabitants), one medium-sized city (20,00-100,000 inhabitants) and one rural municipality (<10,000 inhabitants) were surveyed on a representative basis. The register random samples were drawn as a simple random sample from the population registers of the twelve survey locations on the cut-off date of 31 October 2020. The population of these representative samples is the respective registered resident population aged 16 and older.

2 Survey Instrument

The RISC Regional Panel is a self-administered personal survey that was conducted in a mixed-mode procedure based on the tailored design method according to Dillmann (2017)¹. Respondents received two requests to participate in an online survey with an individualized access code one week apart. The first request was in the form of a postal letter, the second in the form of an enveloped postcard. After three weeks, all respondents - provided they had not already taken part in the survey online - were given the opportunity to complete a paper questionnaire with a second postal letter and return it free of charge using the enclosed stamped envelope. The analogue survey data was entered into an SPSS mask by the research assistants at each RISC Sections on a decentralized basis.

The cooperating municipalities had the opportunity to contribute questions from the respective local context on the first two pages of the questionnaire; this option was utilized by seven of the twelve municipalities. The remaining 55 questions of the main questionnaire were determined by the respective research interests of the participating RICS sections. In addition, an open call to all RISC sections was send out to contribute two questionnaire modules. As a rule, tried and tested measurement instruments from empirical social research were used; individual instruments were newly developed for the RISC Regional Panel. An average response time of 30 minutes was measured in the pre-test.

Respondents were given the option of completing the questionnaire in different languages in the online version of the survey in order to reduce language-related drop-outs and the resulting distortions in the sample. A total of 169 respondents completed the online questionnaire in a language other than German.

Language	Number of uses
English	94
French	4
Polish	16
Russian	31
Turkish	24

3 Response

The first letter with the invitation to participate in the survey using an individualized access code for the online survey was sent out on 25th of February 2021. The reminder postcard was sent in the period from 4th 7th of March 2021. The second letter with the enclosed paper questionnaire was sent on 25th of March 2021. Due to complications during dispatch, the last letter with the enclosed paper questionnaire in the North Rhine-Westphalian survey locations was delayed until June 2021.

The following table shows the response figures and rates in detail.

¹ Dillman (2017): The promise and challenge of pushing respondents to the Web in mixed-mode surveys. *Survey Methodology* 43(1): 3-30.

Municipality	Gross sample	Adjusted gross sample ²	Survey response ³	Adjusted survey response ⁴	Adjusted online response	Adjusted paper response	Response rate ⁵	Adjusted response rate ⁶
A	6.600	6.390	1.764	1.451	1.024	427	27,61%	22,71%
B	3.300	3.259	1.072	952	691	261	32,89%	29,21%
C	1.107	1.107	360	315	210	105	32,52%	28,46%
D	3.300	3.187	814	665	474	191	25,54%	20,87%
E	6.600	5.273	1.824	1.598	1.159	439	34,59%	30,31%
F	6.600	6.401	1.818	1.631	1.173	458	28,40%	25,48%
G	1.347	1.330	327	290	169	121	24,59%	21,80%
H	6.600	6.340	2.031	1.796	1.228	568	32,03%	28,33%
I	3.000	2.829	642	556	395	161	22,69%	19,65%
J	3.300	3.163	744	679	388	291	23,52%	21,47%
K	3.300	2.862	813	721	479	242	28,41%	25,19%
L	1.000	999	284	240	171	69	28,43%	24,02%
Total	46.054	43.140	12.493	10.894	7.561	3333	28,96%	25,25%

4 Adjustments

The online survey was created and conducted using the Qualtrics software. After the survey was completed, the data was exported as sav-file and prepared with SPSS 29 for merging with the decentralized questionnaires from the written postal survey. The cleansing, merging and preparation of the data was carried out centrally at the RISC Section Halle using StataSE 17.

The data adjustment was undertaken in three steps including identification and cleaning of multiple participations, excluding all cases that did not provide information on gender and year of birth. In addition, all cases that had answered less than 15% of the questionnaire were generally automatically excluded. During the basic adjustment, all items were also checked for correct information and missing values prepared according to the coding scheme documented below.

value	Meaning	manual value
.d	„don't know“	Item-dependent
.e	Unclear information	66
.n	Item Nonresponse	99 / .
.f	Filter	77

² Gross sample without neutral (deceased and moved) sample fallouts.

³ Total of unadjusted survey responses.

⁴ Total of adjusted survey responses. Further details on adjustments in Chapter 4.

⁵ = unadjusted survey responses/adjusted gross sample

⁶ = adjusted survey responses/adjusted gross sample