Research Institute
Social Cohesion

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RISC RegPan Documentation

RISC Regional Panel (FGZ Regionalpanel)

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

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Social Cohesion

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.

Recommended Citation

Sackmann, R., Dirksmeier, P., Göb, A., Hartl, J., Mayer, I., Rees, J., Rees, Y., Reinhold, M., Schmidt, A., Schmidt, J.-H., & Vogel, B. (2026). RISC RegPan W1-2 2021-23: Survey Design Wave 2 - Summary (English). *RISC Regional Panel 2021-2023 – Wave 1-2 (FGZ Regionalpanel 2021-2023 – Welle 1-2)*. Bremen: RDC-RISC. doi:10.60532/risc_regpan.2021-23.w1-2.v1

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- **Publisher:** RDC-RISC
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  P.O. Box 330 440
  28334 Bremen
  Germany
- **DOI:** 10.60532/risc_regpan.2021-23.w1-2.v1
- **Website:** www.fgz-risc-data.de

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Survey Design Summary

RISC Regional Panel

2. Wave 2023

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RISC Regional Panel

Second wave 2023

Survey Design Summary

The RISC Regional Panel with the survey title “What holds us together 2023?” 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 second wave of the RISC Regional Panel.

1 Sample

The second wave of the survey includes the twelve municipalities already surveyed in the first wave, so that further samples were taken from the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia (*A*, *D*, *L*), Lower Saxony (*E*, *B*, *C*), Bavaria (*F*, *K*, *I*) and Saxony-Anhalt (*H*, *J*, *G*). Thus, one large 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 sample is based on the register random samples of the first wave which was 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. The sample of the second survey wave had to be adjusted slightly due to rising paper and postage costs, as the gross sample size was reduced: With a focus on providing the largest possible panel data set, a sub-sample (a) was initially formed for each survey location from all residents who had already participated in the first survey wave and were willing to participate in the study. To adjust the population, disproportionate resampling was used in the survey locations where this was possible: At each survey location, a random 10% sample (b) was drawn from all those who had turned 16 by the cut-off date of 31 October 2022 or who had moved to the area since the last draw in 2020. The difference between the feasible gross samples of 4,200 respondents in large cities and 2,100 respondents in medium-sized cities was filled using a simple random sample from the register sample of 31 October 2020 minus respondents already included in subsample (a) (subsample (c)) to compensate for panel mortality. In the small towns/villages, the sample of the first survey wave, minus sample-neutral dropouts, was used (Sackmann et al. 2024:29)[1]. On the one hand, this complex random selection enables the creation of a panel data set. On the other hand, the sub-samples b) and c) reduce selective drop-outs and stabilize the number of cases for in-depth analyses at district levels. In the data set, the variable sample contains the information

[1] Sackmann, Reinhold; Rees, Jonas; Hartl, Jakob (2024): Methodische Grundlagen des Regionalpanels. In: Reinhold Sackmann, Peter Dirksmeier, Jonas H. Rees und Berthold Vogel (Hrsg.): Sozialer Zusammenhalt vor Ort. Analysen regionaler Mechanismen. Frankfurt, New York: Campus Verlag (Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt, Band 5), S. 21–36.

from which register the respondents were recruited. The following table contains an overview of the respective sample composition.

Samples of the municipalities				
Municipality	Gross sample	Participants first wave (a)	Resampling (b)	Refilling random sample 2020 (c)
A	4.124	1.749	/	2.375
B	2.100	373	312	1.415
C	1.100	235	135	730
D	1.318	804	/	514
E	4.200	956	1.004	2.240
F	4.200	1.562	/	2.638
G	1.188	283	/	905
H	4.200	2.022	962	1.216
I	1.910	520	455	935
J	2.100	702	557	841
K	2.100	691	1.323	86
L	551	283	/	268

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)[2]. 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.

As in the first survey wave, the first two pages of the questionnaire open to the cooperating municipalities to contribute questions from the respective local context; 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 RISC Sections. In addition, an open call to all RISC sections was again 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.

As in the first survey wave, 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. In the second wave, however, these different language options were only made available online when the second cover letter was sent, meaning that the option was not yet available when respondents were first asked to participate. A total of 105 respondents completed the online questionnaire in a language other than German.

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

Language	Number of uses
English	81
French	2
Polish	3
Russian	19

3 Response

An overview of the start- and end date of the field phase in the various federal states can be found in the following table.

	Week of first postal letters	End date field work
Lower Saxony	KW 16 2023	31.08.2023
Saxony-Anhalt	KW 16 2023	31.08.2023
Bavaria	KW 20 2023	30.09.2023
NRW	KW 27 2023	31.10.2023

Due to the predominant use of the 2020 register sample, an increased proportion of neutral sample fallouts in the form of undeliverable letters, as well as information and corrections of addresses sent by telephone, in writing and by e-mail, have been recorded.

The table on the next page shows the response figures and rates in detail.

Municipality	Gross sample	Adjusted gross sample[3]	Survey response[4]	adjusted survey response [5]	Adjusted online response	Adjusted paper response	Response rate[6]	Adjusted response rate[7]	Comparison response rate wave 1	Comparison adjusted response rate wave 2
Ort A	4.124	4.106	1.048	898	586	312	25,52%	21,87%	27,61%	22,72%
Ort B	2.100	1.859	557	501	324	177	29,96%	26,95%	32,89%	29,27%
Ort C	1.100	1.080	213	190	123	67	19,72%	17,59%	32,52%	28,46%
Ort D	1.318	1.299	410	349	221	128	31,56%	26,87%	25,54%	22,50%
Ort E	4.200	3.460	1.113	1.008	626	382	32,17%	29,13%	34,59%	30,34%
Ort F	4.200	3.422	1.019	910	693	217	29,78%	26,59%	28,40%	25,78%
Ort G	1.188	1.142	167	154	91	63	14,62%	13,49%	24,59%	21,80%
Ort H	4.200	4.091	1.222	1.144	629	515	29,87%	27,96%	32,03%	28,68%
Ort I	1.910	1.706	392	350	263	88	22,98%	20,52%	22,69%	19,87%
Ort J	2.100	2.040	497	446	227	219	24,36%	21,86%	23,52%	21,75%
Ort K	2.100	1.802	604	522	397	124	33,52%	28,97%	28,41%	25,44%
Ort L	551	546	137	118	73	45	25,09%	21,61%	28,43%	26,03%
Total	**2.9091**	**2.6553**	**7.379**	**6.590**	**4.253**	**2.337**	**27,79%**	**24,82%**	**28,96%**	**25,58%**

[3] Gross sample without neutral (deceased and moved) sample fallouts.
[4] Total of unadjusted survey responses.
[5] Total of adjusted survey responses. Further details on adjustments in Chapter 4.
[6] = unadjusted survey responses/adjusted gross sample
[7] = adjusted survey responses/adjusted gross sample

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