

Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)  
 Module 3: Sample Design and Data Collection Report  
 June 05, 2006

Country: Austria  
 Date of Election: Sept 28, 2008

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 Date of Preparation: Jan 14, 2010

NOTES TO COLLABORATORS:

- Where brackets [ ] appear, answer by placing an “X” within the appropriate bracket or brackets.
- If more space is needed to answer any question, please lengthen the document as necessary.

Collaborator(s):

Collaborators are the contact persons for election studies that appear in the CSES dataset - they are not necessarily the parties who collected the data. These collaborators and their contact information will be listed on the CSES website.

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Data Collection Organization:

Organization that conducted the survey field work/data collection:

Organization:  
GfK-Austria GmbH  
Address:  
Ungargasse 37  
1030 Wien, Austria  
  
Telephone: +43/1/717 10  
Fax: +43/1/717 10/194  
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Funding Organization(s):

Organization(s) that funded the data collection:

Organization:  
Austrian Science Fund (FWF)  
Address:  
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Sensengasse 1  
1090 Vienna, Austria  
  
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Website: [www.fwf.ac.at](http://www.fwf.ac.at)

Archiving Organization

If appropriate, please indicate the primary location where the full, original election study dataset (not just the CSES portion) will be archived:

Organization: Department of Methods in the Social Sciences, University of Vienna  
Address:  
Rooseveltplatz 2/4  
1090 Vienna, Austria  
  
Telephone: +43-1-4277-49901  
Fax: +43-1-4277-9499  
  
E-Mail: [office.methodenzentrum@univie.ac.at](mailto:office.methodenzentrum@univie.ac.at)  
Website: [www.autnes.at](http://www.autnes.at)

Please indicate the date when the study is expected to be available at this archive:  
2011

Study Design

1. Timing of the study that the CSES Module was included in:

Post-Election Study

Pre-Election/Post-Election Panel Study

2a. Date Post-Election Interviewing Began:

May 5, 2009

2b. Date Post-Election Interviewing Ended:

July 2, 2009

3. Mode of (post-election) interview:

In person, face-to-face

Telephone

Mail or self-completion supplement

Internet

4a. Was the survey part of a panel study?

Yes

No

4b. If the survey was part of a panel study, please describe the design of the panel study, including the date at which interviewing for each prior wave began and ended:

Translation

Please provide copies of questionnaires in all languages used as part of the election study deposit. For questionnaires in a language other than English, please also provide a version of each translated back into English. Note: Questions are based on those developed for the ISSP.

5. Was the questionnaire translated?

- Yes, translated by member(s) of research team
- Yes, by translation bureau
- Yes, by specially trained translator(s)
- No, not translated

6. Please list all languages used for the fielded module:

German

7a. If the questionnaire was translated, was the translated questionnaire assessed/checked or evaluated?

- Yes, by group discussion
- Yes, an expert checked it
- Yes, by back translation
- Other; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Not applicable

7b. If the questionnaire was translated, was the questionnaire pre-tested?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

7c. If the questionnaire was translated, were there any questions which caused problems when translating?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

7d. If the questionnaire was translated, please provide a list of all questions which caused problems when translating. For each question listed, describe what problems were encountered and how they were solved:

Questions D28 and D29 (race and ethnicity) were difficult to ask in the Austrian context. We asked for the migration background of the respondent instead. These data are available on request.

Sample Design and Sampling Procedures

8. Please describe the population that your sample is meant to be representative of:

Austrian Population, persons aged 17 and older, all persons eligible to vote for the national election 2008

Eligibility Requirements

9a. Must a person be a certain age to be interviewed?

Yes

No

If yes, what ages could be interviewed?

17 and older

9b. Must a person be a citizen to be interviewed?

Yes

No

Note: The survey organization was requested to interview only Austrian citizens who are eligible to vote. 14 non-citizens are however included in the final sample; these are designated by the variable 'citizen'.

9c. Must a person be registered to vote to be interviewed?

Yes

No

9d. Please list any other interviewing requirements or filters used:

Sample Frame

10a. Were any regions of the country excluded from the sample frame?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10b. Were institutionalized persons excluded from the sample?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10c. Were military personnel excluded from the sample?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10d. If interviews were conducted by telephone, what is the estimated percentage of households without a phone? \_\_\_\_\_ %

Please explain:

10e. If interviews were conducted by telephone, were unlisted telephone numbers included in the population sampled?

Yes

No

If no, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

10f. Were other persons excluded from the sample frame?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10g. Please estimate the total percentage of the eligible population excluded from the sample frame:

\_\_\_\_\_ %

### Sample Selection Procedures

11. Please describe, in your own words, how the sample for the study was selected. If the survey is part of a panel study, please also describe the original sample, from the beginning of the study.

The sample was drawn using multiple stratification with a clustered address random procedure:

- a. Austria is divided into nine provinces proportional to their population (age 17 and above)
- b. These provinces are then divided in 121 administrative districts, again proportional to their population,
- c. These districts are finally divided in 9 different town sizes.
- d. Communities were then randomly selected, and within each community a PAC (post-certified address code) and then 5 addresses, again randomly.
- e. The Kish Method ensured reaching younger people in each household.

12a. What were the primary sampling units?

The 9 provinces

12b. How were the primary sampling units selected?

proportional to population size

12c. Were the primary sampling units randomly selected?

Yes

No

Please explain how the units were randomly selected. If the units were not randomly selected, please provide a justification for why the units were not randomly selected.

See question 11.

13. Were there further stages of selection?

Yes

No

13a. If there were further stages of selection, what were the sampling units at each of the additional stages?

See question 11.

13b. If there were further stages of selection, how were the sampling units selected at each of the additional stages?

See question 11.

13c. If there were further stages of selection, were units at each of these stages randomly selected?

Yes

No

Please explain how the units were randomly selected. If the units were not randomly selected, please provide a justification for why the units were not randomly selected.

See question 11.

14a. How were individual respondents identified and selected in the final stage?

Using the Kish Method.

14b. Could more than one respondent be interviewed from a single household?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

15. Did the sample design include clustering at any stage?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:  
multiple stratification with a clustered address random procedure

16. Did the sample design include stratification?

Definition: Stratification involves the division of the population of interest according to certain characteristics (for instance: geographic, political, or demographic). Random selection then occurs within each of the groups that result.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (please include the list of characteristics used for stratification):

See question 11. The characteristics used for stratification were geographic (provinces, administrative districts and town sizes).

17. Was quota sampling used at any stage of selection?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

18. Was substitution of individuals permitted at any stage of the selection process or during fieldwork?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

19. Under what circumstances was a household designated non-sample? Please check all that apply:

Non-residential sample point

All members of household are ineligible

Housing unit is vacant

No answer at housing unit after >5 callbacks

Other (Please explain):

20. Were non-sample replacement methods used?

Yes

No

Please describe:

Every interviewer was given a second address in case the target respondent was not contactable or the address was not correct. Only then could the second address be used.

21a. For surveys conducted by telephone, was the sample a random digit dial (RDD) sample?

Yes

No

21b. For surveys conducted by telephone, was the sample a listed sample?

Yes

No

21c. For surveys conducted by telephone, was the sample a dual frame sample?

Yes

No

If yes, what % list frame\_\_\_\_\_ and what % RDD\_\_\_\_\_

22. For surveys conducted by mail, was the sample a listed sample?

Yes

No

Please describe:

23. For surveys conducted on the Internet, did any respondents self-select into the survey?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Incentives

24a. Prior to the study, was a letter sent to the respondent?

Yes

No

(If yes, please provide a copy of the letter.)

The following postcard was sent to potential respondents prior to the study:

Sehr geehrte gnädige Frau, sehr geehrter Herr!

GfK Austria GmbH ist ein Unternehmen, das im Auftrag von Handel, Industrie, Behörden und öffentlichen Stellen Markt- bzw. Meinungsumfragen durchführt. Für eine dieser Marktforschungsstudien wurde diesmal auch Ihr Haushalt ausgewählt.

Es wird daher in den nächsten Tagen einer unserer Interviewer bei Ihnen vorsprechen und wir ersuchen Sie im Interesse der österreichischen Wirtschaft, ihm die erbetenen Auskünfte zu erteilen.

Sollte Sie unser Interviewer innerhalb des ihm gestellten Termines nicht antreffen, werden wir versuchen, Ihren Haushalt bei einer späteren Befragung wieder zu berücksichtigen.

**WICHTIG: Da der Interviewpartner erst nach einem Zufallssystem ausgewählt wird, bedeutet es nicht unbedingt, dass Sie selbst interviewt werden - es kann auch eine andere Person in Ihrem Haushalt sein!**

Im voraus herzlichen Dank für Ihre Mithilfe.

GfK Austria  


Bitte heben Sie diese Karte für unseren Interviewer auf.  
Verlangen Sie zur Sicherheit seinen Interviewerausweis.

24b. Prior to the study, was a payment sent to the respondent?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (including amount of payment):

24c. Prior to the study, was a token gift sent to the respondent?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

24d. Did respondent receive an additional payment after their participation? (Do not include any payment made prior to the study.)

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (including amount of payment):

24e. Were any other incentives used?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

## Interviewers

25. Please describe the interviewers (e.g., age, level of education, years of experience):

The average age of the interviewers is 55. 43 of them were men, 35 women. No other interviewer characteristics are available.

26. Please provide a description of interviewer training:

The interviewers, which were all experienced employees of the survey company, were given briefed in writing and over the phone.

## Contacts

27a. What was the average number of contact attempts made per household, for the entire sample?

1.63 (net sample, i.e. valid households); 1.37 (final sample)

27b. For households where contact was made, what was the average number of contact attempts prior to first contact?

0.63 (net sample, i.e. valid households); 0.37 (final sample)

27c. During the field period, how many contacts were made with the household before declaring it a non-sample?

5

28d. During the field period, how many contacts were made with the household before declaring it a non-interview?

5

28e. During the field period, what were the maximum number of days over which a household was contacted?

50

28f. During the field period, did interviewers vary the time of day at which they re-contacted the household?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

At the third attempt interviewers tried to reach respondents either at the weekend or after 6 pm. At the fourth and fifth attempts, interviewers tried to reach respondents either at the weekend or after 6 pm.

Refusal Conversion

29a. Were efforts made to persuade respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed?

Yes

No

Please describe:

29b. Were respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed sent a letter persuading them to take part?

Yes

No

(If yes, please provide a copy of the letter or letters.)

If yes, please describe:

29c. Was payment offered to respondents who were reluctant to take part?

Yes

No

If yes, how much?

29d. Were respondents who were reluctant to take part turned over to a more experienced interviewer?

Yes

No

29e. What was the maximum number of re-contacts used to persuade respondents to be interviewed?

2

29f. Were any other methods used to persuade respondents reluctant to be interviewed to take part?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

### Interview/Survey Verification

Definition: Interview/survey verification is the process of verifying that an interview was conducted and that the survey was administered to the correct respondent, for quality control purposes.

30. Was interview/survey verification used?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the method(s) used:

Following the interviews, the survey organisation contacted 240 (about 20%) of the respondents by telephone. They were asked to confirm that the interview had been conducted. 10 questions from the survey were then asked again in order to ensure that the interview had been conducted correctly.

If yes, please indicate the percent of completed surveys that were verified: 20 %

Response Rate

31. What was the response rate of the survey that the CSES Module appeared in? Please show your calculations. (If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please report the response rate of the first wave of the study, even if the CSES Module did not appear in that wave.)

75,7%

Basis 1640

Net-Sample 1589; final 1203 (75,7%)

32. Please provide the following statistics for the survey that the CSES Module appeared in. Note: If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please report the statistics for the first wave of the study, even if the CSES Module did not appear in that wave.)

A. Total number of households in sample:	<u>1640</u>
B. Number of valid households:	<u>1589</u>
C. Number of invalid (non-sample) households:	<u>51</u>
D. Number of households of unknown validity:	<u>0</u>
E. Number of completed interviews:	<u>1203</u>
F. Number of partial interviews:	<u>0</u>
G. Number of refusals and break-offs:	<u>242</u>
H. Number non-contact (never contacted):	<u>89</u>
I. Other non-response:	<u>54</u>

The sum of B+C+D should equal the value of A. If not, please describe why:

If statistic D (number of households of unknown validity) has a value greater than zero (0), please estimate the proportion of households of unknown validity that are valid:

The sum of E+F+G+H+I should equal the value of B. If not, please describe why:

If statistic I has a value greater than zero (0), please describe what cases fall into this category:

In eight cases the interviewee was not able to be interviewed. A variety of other reasons make up the remaining 47 cases.

33. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, how many waves were conducted prior to the wave that included the CSES Module?

34. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, what was the total panel attrition between the first wave of the study and the wave that included the CSES Module? Please show your calculations.

35. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please provide the number of completed interviews for the wave that included the CSES Module:

36. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please provide the following statistics for panel attrition by age and education. In each cell, indicate the percent of all completed interviews in each category for the indicated wave.

Age	First wave of study	Wave that included CSES
18-25	%	%
26-40	%	%
41-64	%	%
65 and over	%	%

Education	First wave of study	Wave that included CSES
None	%	%
Incomplete primary	%	%
Primary completed	%	%
Incomplete secondary	%	%
Secondary completed	%	%
Post-Secondary Trade/Vocational	%	&
University incomplete	%	%
University degree	%	%

### Post-Survey Adjustment Weights

37. Are weights necessary to make the sample representative of the population being studied?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

The variables used for weighting are gender, province, age, occupation, education and town size

38. Are weights included in the data file?

Yes

No

39. If weights are included in the data file, please describe in detail how the weights were constructed:

gender \* province

gender \* age

gender \* occupation

gender \* education

gender \* province \* town size

40a. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to compensate for disproportionate probability of selection?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

40b. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to match known demographic characteristics of the population?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

See question 39.

40c. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to correct for non-response?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

The sample selection procedure was designed to ensure random sampling at the last stage. Because of non-response the sample is not an exact representation in terms of equal distribution of the known demographic characteristics of the Austrian population. Hence weights are used to adapt to those known distributions.

40d. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to correct to the official election results?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please describe:

41. Comparison of Completed Interviews to Population (please provide as percentages of the total):

Characteristic	Population Estimates	Completed Interviews	
		Unweighted Distribution	Weighted Distribution
<u>Age*</u>			
17-25	11.2 (13.6)	10.0	12.0
26-40	21.1 (25.6)	19.3	25.9
41-64	32.9 (39.9)	45.1	40.6
65 and over	17.2 (20.9)	25.7	21.5
<u>Education*</u>			
"Incomplete Secondary"	-	1.2	1.3
"Secondary School"	27.1	22.0	24.7
"Post-secondary Trade/Vocational School"	48.6	48.1	42.3
"Secondary Completed (Academic Secondary Schools)"	Together 14.1	7.6	7.3
"Secondary Completed (Technical and Vocational Colleges)"		8.8	11.0
"Post-Secondary College"	2.0	3.7	4.2
"University Degree Completed"	8.2	8.3	9.0
"other"	-	0.1	0.2
<u>Gender*</u>			
Male	48.7	45.6	48.3
Female	51.3	54.4	51.7

(\*year 2008, real percentage and corrected to 100% in brackets)

42. Please indicate the source of the population estimates in the prior question. English language sources are especially helpful. Include website links or contact information if applicable.

The population estimates were taken from the micro census (,Mikrozensus') carried out by Statistics Austria. This is in turn based on the 2001 census.

[http://www.statistik-oesterreich.info/web\\_en/](http://www.statistik-oesterreich.info/web_en/)

[http://www.statistik-oesterreich.info/web\\_en/statistics/education\\_culture/educational\\_attainment/index.html](http://www.statistik-oesterreich.info/web_en/statistics/education_culture/educational_attainment/index.html)

[http://www.statistik-oesterreich.info/web\\_en/statistics/population/population\\_stock\\_and\\_population\\_change/total\\_population\\_annual\\_average/index.html](http://www.statistik-oesterreich.info/web_en/statistics/population/population_stock_and_population_change/total_population_annual_average/index.html)