From face-to-face to mobile Internet: replicate the French ESS questionnaire on the ELIPSS panel

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The Socio-Political Data Center (CDSP) is responsible for the data collection of the ELIPSS panel and the ESS.

A part of the ESS 7th round was administered to the ELIPSS panel.

Each survey process has his specificities (mobile Internet vs. face-to-face).

What is the influence of the administration mode?
Elipss in a few words

- Online survey instrument for the scientific community
- **Aim**: to address the lack of questionnaire survey tools in humanities and social sciences
- **Sampling**: probability-based
- **Periodicity**: each month
- **Duration**: 30 minutes maximum
- **Administration**: self-administered

7-inch touchscreen tablet & 3G subscription
ESS in a few words

- Academically cross-national survey conducted every two years across Europe since 2001
- **Aim**: to chart stability and change in the social structure, conditions and attitudes in Europe
- **Sampling**: probability-based
- **Periodicity**: biennial
- **Duration**: 1 hour
- **Administration**: face-to-face
Comparison of the survey specifications

- **Contact mode**
  - ELIPSS panel: Mobile Internet
  - ESS 7th round: Face-to-face

- **Fieldwork period**
  - ELIPSS panel: From December 2014 to February 2015 (13 weeks)
  - ESS 7th round: From November 2014 to February 2015 (14 weeks)

- **Sample**
  - ELIPSS panel: 801 respondents (aged 20 to 77)
  - ESS 7th round: 1,917 respondents (aged 15 and over)

- **Frequency**
  - ELIPSS panel: Monthly
  - ESS 7th round: Once

- **Incentives**
  - ELIPSS panel: Touchscreen tablet & 3G subscription
  - ESS 7th round: €10 voucher
Constraints to administrate the ESS survey in ELIPSS

- Adapting the questionnaire duration:
  - Not exceed 25 minutes in ELIPSS
  - Which modules & questions?

- Adapting the questionnaire design:
  - Specific design in ELIPSS
  - Non-response answer options
Population: who are they?

- Restriction of the ESS population (age limits, n=1,667)
- Application of the weightings
- Comparison of samples:
  - Over-representation of young people and elderly in the ELIPSS panel
  - Smaller households in ELIPSS
  - In the ESS sample, higher share of respondents who have a job

Age structure

- 20-29: 12% ELIPSS, 15% ESS
- 30-39: 24% ELIPSS, 20% ESS
- 40-49: 25% ELIPSS, 21% ESS
- 50-59: 18% ELIPSS, 19% ESS
- 60-69: 14% ELIPSS, 19% ESS
- 70-77: 6% ELIPSS, 7% ESS

Household size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>ELIPSS</th>
<th>ESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 persons</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 persons</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 persons</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 persons</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Status</th>
<th>ELIPSS</th>
<th>ESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actives</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed, Students</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ESS - ELIPSS, it’s all the same?

- A very similar distribution of responses for the majority of variables
- Existing tendency on different topics
- Confirmation with previous comparisons (ESS4 vs. LISS Panel - Revilla, 2013)
- Quality-proof of both survey devices
Online: the center is better!

- Extreme responses more frequent in ESS
- Panelists in favor of central response items
- Existing theories to interpret these trends
- Regularity of appearance pleads for a device effect

![How interested in politics](image1)

![Government should reduce differences in income levels](image2)

![Allow immigrants from poorer countries in Europe to come and live in France](image3)
Beyond devices: broadening our scope

- The survey mode is not the only explanation

- The behavior of population groups should be taken into account:
  - Gender differences and age effect in political interest
  - Differentiated perception of societal issues depending on income level
Face-to-Face: trying to look good!

- In face-to-face, respondents give more gratifying answers than online
  - Social desirability bias (Krosnick, 1991)

- Willingness to give a good self-image:
  - High level of happiness
  - More social relations
  - Stronger confidence in institutions
  - Greater tolerance for immigration and homosexuality

- Among the face-to-face responses, there are also differences:
  - According to the interviewer’s gender
  - But also the respondent’s gender
What’s coming next?

- Comparison of two quality surveys:
  - Very close answers
  - Low non-response rate
  - Consistency between related variables

- Each device has specific response behaviors:
  - Partially related to the survey method
  - Also explained by other variables

- The interviewer’s gender is an interesting lead:
  - Few studies on the subject so far
  - Allow to analyse of the interviewer effect
  - Detailed analysis of non-response
  - Encouraging preliminary analyzes
Thank you for your attention!

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More informations about the ELIPSS project: http://quanti.dime-shs.sciences-po.fr/
More informations about the ESS France: http://www.europeansocialsurveys.org/about/country/france/