

## Study Description

### Publications

If our data has been of use in your publication, we would like to get a short notice in order to see how the data is applied.

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### Citation

Please cite the data contained in this file as:

Shikano, S., Küntzler, T., Gschwind, L. (2018) Panel Survey on Political Efficacy in Mannheim/Ladenburg 2016-2017 [computer file]. Center for Data and Methods, University of Konstanz.

### Survey period

Below the survey periods of the individual panels:

Wave 1 (19.05.16 – 03.07.16)

Wave 2 (21.09.16 – 23.10.16)

Wave 3 (18.07.17 – 20.08.17)

### Concept

As part of the WE-project the panel survey was carried out with the purpose of measuring the state of political efficacy and political participation in specific districts of Mannheim and the city of Ladenburg. It also took interest in examining the link between the above mentioned topics and internet usage.

The questionnaire of the first wave included questions regarding political efficacy and political participation as well as questions about internet usage. Additionally, participants had to answer some questions about personal details. In wave 2 and 3 participants were additionally asked further questions about their personal contacts.

The panel survey consists of three waves. Two were initiated in summer and autumn 2016 and the third wave followed in summer 2017. Wave 2 also contains new participants to refresh the panel. All invitations and reminders reached the participants via post.

Invitation letters for wave 1 were sent between 19<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016. For technical reasons letters were not send at once. Two reminders followed on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of June. Initially survey participation was possible until 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, but the survey period was extended until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2016.

For Wave 2 invitation letters were sent latest on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 to all participants from wave 1, also including the invitations for new participants. On 4<sup>th</sup> of October followed the first reminder and on 18<sup>th</sup> of October the second.

Every respondent, who participated in wave 2, was sent a letter of invitation for the third wave on 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. For one half of the respondents the letter included a flyer informing about the online participation tool Kuorum.org. Their questionnaire included additional questions regarding Kuorum.org in order to measure treatment effects. The other half of the respondents served as a control group. This time only one reminder was sent on 28<sup>th</sup> of July.

As the project put a focus on young citizens between the age of 16 and 25, the research team cooperated with the youth organization '68DEINS!'. The organization arranges meetings for kids and other young citizens on regular basis in order to increase their say in Mannheim. The research team joined such a meeting in Seckenheim on 21<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 and informed about training for young citizens afterwards. The training was held on 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 and educated the participants in the usage of the online participation tool Kuorum for increasing their political efficacy. Members of the local council, who were open towards the project, were trained as well.

### **Sampling**

The population consists of every citizen, who is older than 15 years, and has its main residence in Ladenburg or following districts of Mannheim: Seckenheim, Schönau or Neckarau.

Based on the age distribution in each city and district a random stratified sample was drawn from the population registers of Mannheim and Ladenburg. Because the group aged between 16 and 25 years were of special interest in this panel survey, their sampling probability in each city and district was doubled.

A sample of 800 was drawn from every district, which makes in total 3200 persons in the initial sample. In Seckenheim and Schönau 246 people between the age of 16 and 25 were sampled along with 554 people that were 26 years old or older. 230 member of the age group between 16 and 25 were sampled in Neckarau and 570 of persons older than 25. In Ladenburg 189 members of the age group between 16 and 25 were sampled and 611 people older than 25.

Before wave 2 took place, another sample was drawn to refresh the initial sample. For the three city quarters of Mannheim the official population register served as the selected population once again. This time only persons between the age of 16 and 25 were taken into consideration. Since it was not possible to account for accordance between the initial sample and the refresh sample, a larger sample than necessary was drawn. Afterwards the two samples were compared and cleaned, resulting in a composition of 246 people from Seckenheim and Schönau each and 230 persons from Neckarau. As it was not a possibility to draw a new sample from the official population register in the case of Ladenburg, 134 addresses from the initial sample were used, which were initially left out in the first wave. That was feasible, since too many addresses for wave 1 were drawn beforehand. In total 856 persons were part of the refresh sample.

To sum up briefly 3200 persons were contacted in wave 1, leading to 477 persons who received an invitation for wave 2. Furthermore the research team got in contact with 856 additional persons for refreshing the sample. That yields a sample of 1333 persons for wave 2. In wave 3 the sample consisted of 376 persons, who answered the questionnaire in wave 2.

## Survey

The survey was conducted through paper questionnaire and online with the software QuestBack, EFS Survey. Respondents could choose if they either wanted to answer via a paper questionnaire or fill out the questionnaire online. The paper questionnaire was sent together with the invitation letter and returning was free of charge for the respondent. The online questionnaire was accessible with a link and an individual password. As an incentive, participants could win 5 vouchers à 50€ for online shopping. The winners were selected randomly.

Every participant in the sample got an individual password in order to identify them over the course of the panel survey. Some paper questionnaires, which were send back, could not be assigned to a respondent, as the page with the password was ripped off (61 in total).

Referring to the calculation of the response rate in each wave, only persons, who answered via paper questionnaire or online, are taken into account. In the first wave 168 letters were not deliverable, while 42 persons chose to contact the research team that they did not want to participate. Therefore the response rate for wave 1 amounts to 14.9 %. For wave 2 the response rate is 28.2 %, excluding 56 letters that were not deliverable and 10 persons who wished not to participate. In the final wave 4 persons refused actively to participate, while 14 letters were not deliverable. That results in a response rate of 54.3 %.

## Data preparation

After the survey period of wave 1 was finished all paper questionnaires were coded by hand and transferred to Excel. All questionnaires answered online were coded according to QuestBack's own coding system and the final data frame was downloaded in csv-format. Later on each data frame was checked and edited, so that the coding matched.

For wave 2 and 3 a different approach was chosen. Paper questionnaires were entered in QuestBack as well and were therefore coded the same way as online responses. Paper questionnaires that came back without a password were coded by hand. All data frames were also checked and edited. Then the correspondence of wave 1, 2 and 3 was checked and edited if needed.

Missing values were treated as follows:

- -11: Don't know
- -22: Missing
- -22 in text variables: If a respondent ticked a box with a field where an answer could be typed in, but chose not to leave an entry.
- -77: Does not apply – e.g. people from Mannheim in variables regarding Ladenburg
- -77 in text variables: If a respondent did not tick a box with a field where an answer could be typed in

All waves were merged into one data set including people that chose not to answer overall. Some of the paper questionnaires (61 in total) could not be matched to a respondent since their password was missing. The response times of persons, who answered via paper questionnaire in wave 2 and 3 and were entered in QuestBack later on, were changed to -77 as it would distort the results.

If you wish to receive more information or have any questions regarding the data, please contact the research team via the above mentioned address.