

The ENTRA survey: Recent Immigration Processes and Early Integration Trajectories in Germany - Methodological Report

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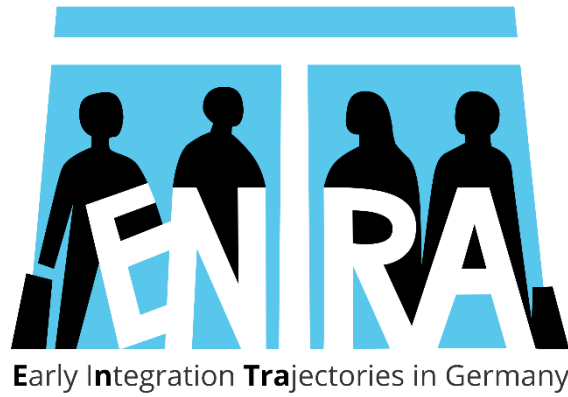
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The ENTRA Survey

Recent Immigration Processes and Early Integration Trajectories
in Germany

Methodological Report

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1 INTRODUCTION

This methodological report on the research project “Recent Immigration Processes and Early Integration Trajectories in Germany” (ENTRA) provides information about the study’s research design and data collection. This work was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).¹ The principal investigators of ENTRA were Claudia Diehl (University of Konstanz), Cornelia Kristen (University of Bamberg) and Matthias Koenig (University of Heidelberg/University of Göttingen). The project started in September 2017 and ended in December 2021.

The main objective of the ENTRA project was to collect data on recent immigrants in Germany, covering immigration and settlement dynamics, as well as their integration trajectories. The study consists of a two-wave panel survey of four different immigrant groups: Italians, Poles, Syrians, and Turks. The groups differed with respect to a range of characteristics such as their average educational and skill level, religious backgrounds, reasons for migration, and the salience of ethnic boundaries encountered in the receiving country. Viewing integration as a multidimensional process, we focused on different aspects of immigrant integration, including language skills and use, ethnic and national identities, ethnic boundaries, political participation, religious belonging and practices, social contacts and networks, educational attainment, labor market participation, and health. The panel study was designed as a multimodal survey that was administered in the national language of the respective immigrant groups. In total, 4,448 immigrants and refugees participated in the first survey wave, and longitudinal data of both panel waves is available for 3,366 cases.

The ENTRA study differs from existing data collections on immigrants in important respects. Most existing studies focus on immigrants who have already been living in the destination country for several years or decades, whereas the ENTRA study surveyed immigrants closer to their arrival in Germany, and consequently, traced their integration processes from the very beginning. Moreover, the comparative research design allows for an identification of group-specific patterns. It is thus possible to address potential particularities of certain immigrant groups in comparison to others. For example, recent refugees from Syria are also covered in other data sources, but usually not in comparison to other newly arrived immigrants, rendering it difficult to assess similarities and differences in their integration trajectories. The ENTRA study thus features data that allow users to analyze the *early* integration processes of new immigrants, including refugees, in a *comparative* perspective.

When designing the ENTRA study, one of the tasks was to ensure comparability with other data sources. The questionnaire includes many instruments employed in other studies, and thus allows for a comparison of the respondents of the ENTRA survey with respondents from other surveys.

One of the major challenges of the ENTRA project was that the second panel wave fieldwork took place during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in 2020. Integration processes may have been affected by the pandemic and the measures taken to contain it (e.g., regarding social

¹ Grant numbers: DI 860/8-1, KO 3399/5-1, KR 3766/9-1.

contacts). They may have therefore not followed the ‘regular’ course. Although we adjusted the research design and implemented ideas to assess potential COVID-19-effects, the findings of longitudinal analyses conducted with the collected data may not be generalizable to integration trajectories in a non-pandemic situation.

The methodological report is structured as follows: In the subsequent three chapters, the research design (chapter 2), the fieldwork (chapter 3), and the survey instruments (chapter 4) are discussed in detail. Thereafter, the report proceeds with a description of the response rates and sample sizes for the different survey waves (chapter 5) and analyses of the sample composition and selectivity (chapter 6). The final chapter introduces to the scientific use file (chapter 7).

2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Collecting sound research data on new immigrants – including refugees – is challenging, because in Germany, researchers cannot rely on nationwide official register data that provide the information necessary to unequivocally identify the target population, draw a sample, and contact the target persons. Moreover, surveying new immigrants requires overcoming obstacles such as language barriers. The ENTRA study employed an innovative research design to meet these challenges. In this chapter, we describe the basic setup of the study (section 2.1), the rationale for the selection of the target population (section 2.2), and the sampling strategy (section 2.3).

2.1 Basic setup

The ENTRA study followed a *mini panel* approach to collect data across two survey waves. In the first wave, new immigrants were surveyed during their first years living in Germany. Approximately one and a half years later, they were interviewed a second time to trace their early integration trajectories. Respondents could take the survey online (CAWI), via telephone (CATI) or face-to-face (CAPI). All interviews were administered in the respective national language of the respondents’ country of origin (CO-language), i.e., in Arabic, Italian, Polish or Turkish.

In response to the unexpected developments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the initial research design was expanded to include an additional short web survey that aimed at assessing how the pandemic affected respondents’ everyday lives. The data gathered in this intermediate survey may allow unexpected patterns or changes in integration processes between the two regular panel waves to be assessed. The additional wave also contained a few selected panel items from the regular surveys. Accordingly, repeated measurements of some items are available for up to three points in time.

To determine the features of the research design and to prepare the fieldwork, we conducted several smaller studies. In this way, we aimed at settling conceptual and practical challenges

regarding the research design, survey instruments, data collection and data handling in advance. The preliminary studies comprised two major parts addressing different aspects of the research design. In the first part, a sample of 2,600 target persons was drawn to test the sampling and recruitment strategy. Using a subsample of 210 respondents, in the second part, the questionnaire and various administrative processes of the data collection were tested. Based on the experiences and the findings gained in these extended preliminary studies, we adapted the research design and the instruments implemented. More details on the specific findings of these preliminary studies and their implications for the main surveys will be discussed throughout the report.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the preliminary studies and main surveys conducted in the ENTRA project.

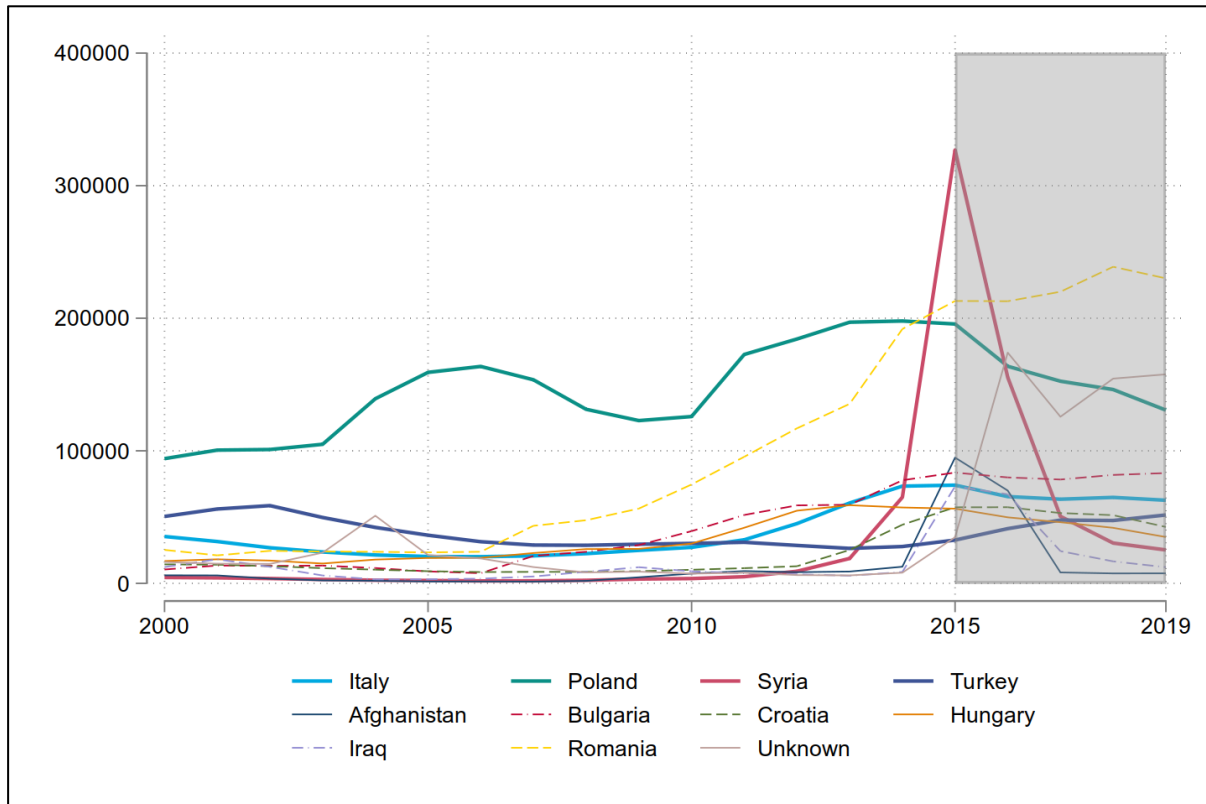
Figure 1. Overview and schedule of the preliminary studies and the main surveys

	Year	'17				'18				'19				'20				'21			
	Quarter	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
<i>Preliminary studies</i>																					
Sampling & recruitment		■	■																		
Questionnaire & data collection					■																
<i>Main surveys</i>																					
Wave 1										■	■	■									
Additional COVID-19 survey													■								
Wave 2																		■	■		

2.2 Target population

Applying a research design that allows for group comparisons, the ENTRA study surveyed new immigrants of different origins: Italians, Poles, Syrians and Turks. The rationale for selecting these groups was to sample immigrants with different motives and characteristics, to be able to compare ENTRA with data from a previous project on newcomers from Turkey and Poland (see section 4.1), and to include immigrants who originate from countries that significantly shaped the migration influx to Germany at the time. Figure 2 shows the annual inflow of the largest immigrant groups to Germany. The shaded area indicates the immigration period that was selected for the ENTRA sample. The sampled groups were among the top ten immigrant groups in the years 2015 to 2019 (BAMF 2021: 192-197). With approximately 50,000 immigrants per year, Italians and Turks showed a fairly stable influx over this period. Immigration from Poland, in contrast, steadily decreased from 200,000 immigrants in 2015, to 130,000 immigrants in 2019. Despite this, Poles still make up one of the largest immigrant groups during this period. Immigration from Syria was at a relatively low level for most of the time period, but drastically increased from 2012 onwards, until the numbers peaked in 2015 with more than 320,000 immigrants, making Syrians the largest immigrant group in that year. Thereafter, these numbers decreased.

Figure 2. Migration inflow to Germany of sampled and other selected immigrant groups from 2000 to 2019 (absolute frequencies)



Notes: The shaded area indicates the immigration period selected for the ENTRA sample. Source: BAMF Migrationsbericht 2020 (BAMF 2021: 192-197).

The selection of the four immigrant groups was based on several considerations regarding variations in crucial characteristics relevant to early integration processes in the host society. Three criteria were decisive for the selection (see Table 1). First, the groups needed to differ with respect to their average level of education and qualification, and the likelihood of being able to transfer these resources to the host society. Second, it was important to be able to distinguish and compare immigrants from countries with a long immigration history, who encounter an established ethnic network structure upon arrival in the host society, with new immigrant groups, which have become numerically relevant only in recent years. Third, it was important to include immigrant groups of culturally diverse backgrounds to mirror potential inter-group boundaries along ethnic and religious lines.

In order to assess these groups' early integration processes, we initially planned to restrict the sample to immigrants who had lived in Germany for no longer than one and a half years. Since the inflow of refugees from Syria peaked in mid-2015 and immigration thereafter declined, we decided to cover individuals arriving during that peak. Accordingly, the sample consisted of immigrants who moved to Germany between July 1, 2015 and February 28, 2019, and could potentially have lived in Germany for a maximum of about four years. This adjustment was necessary, to achieve a sufficiently large gross sample for all groups. Furthermore, the target

population was restricted to immigrants from Italy, Poland, Syria, and Turkey who were between 18 and 40 years old (18 to 41 at the time of the first interview) and had the nationality of the respective country of origin and no German citizenship.

Table 1. Classification of immigrant groups according to selection criteria

	Individual transferable resources	Institutional completeness of ethnic networks	Salience of inter-ethnic boundaries
Italians	high	medium	low
Poles	medium	medium	low to medium
Syrians	low to high	low	high (religious)
Turks	low	high	high (religious)

2.3 Sampling strategy

We used data from the local registration offices to draw a sample of new immigrants. Information on new arrivals (or any other registered person) can only be accessed locally; there is no nationwide database covering or merging these local registries.

For the ENTRA study, we applied a two-stage sampling design, which we performed separately for each immigrant group under study. In the *first stage* and for each group, the five cities with the largest migration inflows were selected based on data from the German Federal Office of Statistics (“Wanderungsstatistik”) and from the Central Register of Foreign Nationals (“Ausländerzentralregister”, AZR).² This first selection was based on data from 2015, the most recent data available at that time.

We then contacted the local registration offices of the selected cities and asked them to provide information on all individuals belonging to the target population (see section 2.2 for the various selection criteria). To compensate for potential dropouts, and to adjust for potential changes in the ranking of the cities according to migration inflows which may have occurred since 2015, we also contacted a number of additional municipalities. In this way, we ensured that the same sampling logic was applied to the immigration period under study (i.e., July 2015 to February 2019). The eventual selection of the cities only slightly differed from the initial selection. Two cities, Frankfurt and Essen (for the sample of Turks), had to be excluded from

² Individuals who move to Germany from abroad and who stay in Germany for more than three months have to register with the municipality. The “Wanderungsstatistik” aggregates this information across all municipalities into a nationwide database of all registered relocations. This aggregate data was used for all groups except Syrian refugees. For them, the “Wanderungsstatistik” of 2015 was unsuitable, because many Syrian refugees came to Germany in mid-2015 and were only entered into the records of the “Wanderungsstatistik” in 2016. For this reason, we used the “Ausländerzentralregister” to identify the five German cities in which most Syrian citizens stayed in 2015.

the sampling frame, because we could not obtain (accurate) data from the registration offices.³ Table 2 presents the selected cities ranked by the number of new immigrants for each group. Overall, there was a large overlap in the cities that were selected for the different groups, the only exceptions being Essen and Dortmund, which were used only for sampling Syrians.

Table 2. Number of immigrants in the selected cities according to data from the local municipalities' registration offices and ENTRA gross sample

Italy			Poland		
City	N according to registry data	N ENTRA gross sample	City	N according to registry data	N ENTRA gross sample
Berlin	8,359	6,014	Berlin	8,672	5,052
Munich	4,381	3,152	Hamburg	3,786	2,206
Hamburg	1,720	1,238	Munich	2,631	1,533
Cologne	1,485	1,069	Cologne	1,295	754
Stuttgart	1,474	1,060	Bremen	1,232	718
Total	17,419	12,533	Total	17,616	10,263
Syria			Turkey		
City	N according to registry data	N ENTRA gross sample	City	N according to registry data	N ENTRA gross sample
Berlin	13,644	3,950	Berlin	4,544	4,544
Hamburg	5,894	1,706	Munich	1,870	1,870
Bremen	5,389	1,560	Hamburg	1,504	1,504
Essen	4,994	1,445	Cologne	910	910
Dortmund	4,235	1,226	Stuttgart	791	791
Total	34,156	9,887	Total	9,619	9,619

In the *second stage* of the sampling procedure, and again separately for each immigrant group, a gross sample of target persons was randomly drawn from across all cities. The goal was to achieve a net sample of at least 1,000 interviews for each immigrant group in the first survey wave. The gross sample was calculated based on information gathered in a preliminary study, which provided estimates of group-specific response rates and the number of invalid addresses. The research design and sampling of this preliminary study were almost identical to those of the main survey. However, to minimize the risk of including potential target persons from the main survey already in the preliminary study, only cities with medium-sized migration inflows were selected for the test run. The sample for this preliminary study comprised

³ The registration office of Frankfurt charged extremely high fees for providing the necessary information. We decided against covering these fees with project funds. The registration data of Essen did not document whether individuals immigrated from abroad or whether they moved within Germany. However, moving from abroad was a defining characteristic of the target population. For the sample of Turkish immigrants, Essen was therefore replaced with Stuttgart. For Syrian refugees in Essen, the lack of appropriate information on whether they moved from within Germany or recently arrived from a different country was not an issue. Immigration rates from Syria to Germany were very low prior to 2015, so almost everyone who moved to Essen was likely to have recently moved to Germany.

2,600 target persons from seven German cities. According to calculations based on the estimates of this study – and some later adjustments to it during the field work (see section 3.1), between 10,000 and 12,500 addresses per immigrant group were selected for the main survey (see Table 2).

3 FIELDWORK

The ENTRA team coordinated the fieldwork for all surveys.⁴ It organized the fieldwork related to the online surveys (CAWI) and the face-to-face interviews (CAPI). The telephone interviews (CATI) were conducted in close cooperation with the Bamberg Center for Empirical Studies (BACES), a university-based survey institute located at the University of Bamberg.

This chapter provides a description of the fieldwork performed as part of the ENTRA study, including details on the invitation and recruitment of the target persons (section 3.1), recruitment and training of CAPI and CATI interviewers (section 3.2), data collection (section 3.3), and measures aimed at improving data quality and the identification of fraud (section 3.4). In section 3.5, we provide a summary of the ENTRA design and fieldwork.

3.1 Invitation and recruitment of target persons

Getting in touch

The register data from the local municipalities, from which the gross sample was drawn, contained the names and addresses of the target persons. They received a personally addressed invitation letter, which introduced the aims and scope of the ENTRA study and provided detailed instructions for participation (see Appendix A.1). The target persons were contacted in the respective national language of their country of origin (CO-language).

Incentives for participation

In order to motivate the target persons to participate in the survey, particularly those with lower educational qualifications, and to compensate them for their effort, we offered a voucher worth 25 Euros for completing the first interview. Respondents could select a gift card from one of five different stores (e.g., drugstores, electronics stores). Based on the evaluation of different incentive strategies performed in the preliminary study, this approach has proven to be the most effective in securing participation.⁵ After completing the interview, respondents received a thank-you letter including the gift card (see Appendix A.5).

⁴ In doing so, the team benefitted greatly from input from Petra Quintini, who coordinated the project administratively and supported the research team in data-related tasks.

⁵ In the preliminary study, several combinations of conditional and unconditional incentives were evaluated using a split ballot design. For instance, a small unconditional incentive (display cleaner for smartphones) attached to the invitation letter did not improve the response rate. In contrast, offering a voucher worth 25

Offering different survey modes

Participants were offered the option of taking the survey online (CAWI), via telephone (CATI) or face-to-face (CAPI). By offering CATI and CAPI in addition to the online mode, we aimed at reducing barriers affecting the participation of target persons who are less familiar with standardized surveys and who may require or appreciate more guidance. Participants were free to choose their preferred survey mode. In the preliminary study, many respondents selected the CATI or CAPI mode, particularly the low-skilled immigrants and Syrians. Despite increasing noise by combining different survey modes, employing multiple modes likely increased response rates and reduced selection bias.

Registration and screening

Target persons who agreed to participate in the survey could sign up either online at the project homepage or by returning a response letter (free of charge) that was attached to the invitation letter (see Appendix A.2). In this letter, respondents were asked to indicate further contact details, and to select their preferred voucher and survey mode. In addition, we used the registration procedure to collect information on a few demographic characteristics (e.g., age, date of arrival in Germany, citizenship). Based on these features, we checked whether the selected respondents actually met the criteria of the target population (see section 2.2). Only respondents who successfully passed the screening could participate in the survey.

Friendly reminder

Following a strategy that was similar to the Total Design Method (TDM) proposed by Dillman (1978), all target persons who did not respond to the invitation letter after two weeks received a short reminder and were asked once more to participate in the survey (see Appendix A.3). If they did not respond to this first reminder, they received a second and final reminder two weeks later. This third letter again contained all relevant information, including another response form (see Appendix A.4). The two-week delay between letters was chosen as it allowed the identification of individuals who had responded in the meantime, and the removal of invalid and outdated addresses.

Adjustment of the recruitment procedure during wave 1

The calculation of the required gross sample was based on the number of registrations that we received in response to the 2,600 invitation letters that we sent out when conducting the preliminary study. Considering that the number of invitation letters (approximately 42,000) was significantly higher for the main survey (see section 2.3), we expected some deviation from these estimates. For this reason, we split the mailings of the invitation and reminder

Euros for completing the interview yielded a significantly higher response rate than the combination of a voucher worth 20 Euros and an additional donation of 5 Euros for charity in the respondents' country of origin.

letters into two batches, so that we could adjust the gross sample and the recruitment ahead of sending out the second batch. The first batch comprised 70 percent of the addresses from the initially calculated total gross sample. Nine weeks after sending out these letters, we mailed the letters from the second batch.

For some groups, the deviations to the estimates obtained from the preliminary study were substantive. In the Polish subsample, for example, the response rate, as well as the share of valid addresses was higher than in the test run, so that the target number of 1,000 positive replies was achieved already with the first recruitment batch. Accordingly, a second batch was not sent out for Poles. Among Syrians, in contrast, the response rate was considerably lower than expected, and the gross sample was extended with the second recruitment batch.

In addition, we discovered that the net sample of the first recruitment batch was selective with respect to respondents' educational levels, with highly educated immigrants being more likely to participate in the survey. To adjust for this skewed distribution, an additional screening criterion was introduced before mailing the second recruitment batch. It restricted the participation of new immigrants with a tertiary degree in the Italian and Turkish subsamples.⁶ For Turks, the value of the vouchers was raised to 50 Euros to boost the response rate. This group-specific strategy was implemented, as the low response rate among less-educated Italians could be compensated for by expanding the gross sample, whereas among Turks, the number of remaining addresses was too small to proceed in a similar manner. These measures were implemented during the fieldwork, and only targeted respondents in the second batch. As a result of these adjustments, the actual volume of invitations sent out in the second batch was higher than initially estimated, and exceeded that of the first batch in all groups except for Poles (for an illustration of these numbers see section 3.5, Table 4). To account for the different recruitment procedures in their analyses, users of the data may want to include the variable indicating the recruitment batch. It is part of the scientific use file.

Staying in touch

New immigrants are a highly mobile population, with many moving during the first months of their stay in Germany. A major challenge was therefore to keep the target persons' contact information up to date in order to reach them in the second survey wave one and a half years later. During the registration process and the first data collection, respondents were asked to indicate their mobile phone numbers and email addresses, which likely stay the same when moving. In addition, respondents were invited to inform the ENTRA team about any contact detail changes. An official homepage, an email address and a telephone answering machine (in the four CO-languages) was set up to allow participants to easily get in touch with the project team. It allowed respondents to update their contact details, as well as to raise other queries. As an incentive for updating their contact information, participants received a

⁶ The Polish subsample showed similar tendencies of sample selectivity by educational level, but it was not possible to make adjustments at this stage. Among Syrians, the proportion of respondents with a tertiary degree was significantly lower than in the other groups. Accordingly no adjustments were made.

voucher worth 10 Euros for each new update they submitted. The benefits and options regarding updating their contact information were advertised at the end of the wave 1 questionnaire and again in the thank-you letters with the gift cards (see Appendix A.5).

Apart from keeping contact details up to date, staying in touch with the target persons in the time between the two panel waves was an important tool for reducing panel dropout. At the end of 2019, New Year's greetings were sent to the respondents to remind them about the ongoing project and, once more, asking them to update their contact details if something had changed. Moreover, this opportunity was used to validate the previously indicated email addresses. In the first step, greetings were sent to all available email addresses. Mailings to an invalid email address were automatically returned with a notification and could thus be easily identified as such. In the second step, the few target persons that provided an incorrect email address, as well as those who did not indicate an email address at all received a letter with greetings asking them to provide a valid email address, again offering a voucher worth 10 Euros. Following these measures, we obtained valid email addresses for approximately 97 percent of the respondents.

Recruitment for the COVID-19 survey

For the additional COVID-19 survey, all respondents from wave 1 who gave their permission to be contacted again were invited to participate in the web survey. Target persons were invited via email (for those respondents who indicated a valid email address before), followed by a second invitation via letter (1-2 weeks later) for those who had not yet participated (see Appendix A.6).⁷ An incentive was not offered for participation in this survey.

Recruitment for wave 2

Participants who gave their consent in the first wave and did not withdraw from the ENTRA study in the meantime, were invited to participate in the second survey wave. To rule out response effects due to a mode switch, we originally had planned to assign to each individual the same survey mode that was used in the first wave. However, as the pandemic was still ongoing, we were unable to carry out the CAPI interviews. Instead, CAPI respondents were offered the opportunity to participate in a telephone or video interview. CATI and CAWI interviews were not affected and could be carried out as planned. CAPI and CATI respondents were informed that an interviewer would contact them in the upcoming weeks to conduct the interview (see Appendix A.7, versions CATI and CAPI). CAWI respondents received an invitation to participate in the online survey, including an URL to directly access the survey (see Appendix A.7, version CAWI). Similar to the recruitment strategy implemented in the first survey wave, up to two reminders were sent to CAWI respondents who had not filled in the survey in the meantime. The first reminder followed two weeks after the initial invitation. Due to Christmas

⁷ Invitation letters returned as "undeliverable" indicated that the target persons had changed their address since the last survey (and did not update their new address). For these addresses, requests for updates were made at the corresponding registration offices. The updated information was used for the second survey wave.

and New Year's holidays, the final reminder was sent out later, in the middle of January 2021, six weeks after the first reminder. CAPI and CATI respondents did not receive reminders but were instead directly approached on the telephone to conduct the interview (after sending the announcement). For the second survey wave, all invitations and reminders were sent via both channels, a letter and an email (if available).⁸

Target persons who could not be mobilized to participate in the respective survey mode in the first place were offered the opportunity to change to another mode. Accordingly, target persons who did not respond to the CAWI invitation and reminders were additionally approached via telephone, and those who could not be reached via CAPI or CATI were invited to take the survey online instead.

Respondents were offered a voucher worth 20 Euros for participating in the second panel survey.

3.2 Recruitment and training of interviewers

In the ENTRA study, interviews were conducted exclusively in the national language of the respondents' country of origin. We therefore searched for qualified interviewers who spoke one of the four administration languages (i.e., Arabic, Italian, Polish, and Turkish) as their native language. In the first survey wave, these jobs were advertised via universities, online job sites, immigrant associations, and social media channels. Whereas interviewers for CAPI were recruited in the respective cities or metropolitan areas where they were expected to conduct the interviews, the search for interviewers for CATI was restricted to the Bamberg region where the survey institute BACES was located.

As part of the recruitment procedure, applicants had to conduct a monitored test interview (via telephone), in which their proficiency in the respective language, as well as their basic interview skills were assessed. Native-speaker student assistants from the ENTRA team were trained as test interviewees and evaluated the interview according to a standardized rating scheme. Ultimately, only applicants with solid language skills were selected to conduct interviews for the ENTRA study. In the second panel wave, mainly interviewers from the first survey wave were recruited. If new interviewers were needed, the same recruitment strategy was used as for wave 1.

Table 3 illustrates how many interviewers were recruited per origin group, and it depicts the distributions for a few demographic characteristics of the CAPI and CATI interviewers employed in the first and second survey wave. The number of interviewers recruited varied between immigrant groups and interview modes, depending on the mode preferences of the target populations. Among Poles, for example, few respondents asked for CAPI or CATI,

⁸ The strategy of using two different recruitment channels was more successful than just relying on emails. In the second panel wave, different URLs were included in the invitation emails and letters so that we could trace back which channel respondents used to access the online survey. Approximately 75 percent of the CAWI respondents completed the survey via the URL included in the email. This finding suggests that up to 25 percent of the respondents might have dropped out following an email-only recruitment strategy.

whereas about half of the Syrians in the sample preferred one of these survey modes (see chapter 5, Table 8). Consequently, it was necessary to employ more Arabic- than Polish-speaking interviewers. Although the administration of CATI was basically more efficient (i.e., required fewer interviewers) compared to CAPI, the number of interviewers employed was similar for both survey modes to meet the overall greater demand for CATI. In total, N=79 interviewers were employed to conduct the face-to-face (N=376) and telephone interviews (N=633) of the first survey wave. As a result of the recruitment strategy, most interviewers had themselves migrated from one of the target countries of origin to Germany and were enrolled at university.

In the second survey wave, significantly fewer interviewers (N=21) were employed, because the target sample was much smaller compared to the first wave (CAPI: N=203, CATI: N=328). This was partly related to a reduced number of participants due to panel dropout, and partly to a pandemic-related higher participation rate in the CAWI mode compared to wave 1 (see section 3.3 below). Moreover, only the best and most reliable interviewers from wave 1, who were able to complete many interviews in a short period, were re-employed. Seven of the nine CAPI interviewers and five of the twelve CATI interviewers were recruited from the first survey wave.

Table 3. Interviewer characteristics by survey wave and interview mode

	Wave 1		Wave 2	
	CAPI (N=46)	CATI (N=33)	CAPI (N=9)	CATI (N=12)
<i>Origin group (N)</i>				
Italy	10	7	1	2
Poland	5	4	1	2
Syria	23	12	6	5
Turkey	8	10	1	3
Female (N)	22	15	4	6
Age (Median)	25.2	25.0	25.2	25.9
Born abroad (N)	43	21	9	10
University student (N)	32	29	6	10
Worked in wave 1 (N)	-	-	7	5

Before starting to conduct the interviews, all interviewers had to attend a training course organized by the ENTRA team or, in case of CATI, by BACES in close collaboration with the research team. Training courses were offered in all sampling areas and were conducted in both German and English. Apart from introducing the ENTRA study and the research objectives, the main goal of the training was for participants to learn basic interview techniques and to become familiar with the standardized questionnaire, the equipment, and other relevant materials. Guidelines for contacting the target persons and conducting the interviews, as well as

strategies to handle special situations such as refusals, break-offs, and distrust were discussed. Finally, a large part of the training involved practicing the interview situation, including the use of the questionnaire and the technical equipment. For the second survey wave, training courses were offered online only. New interviewers had to attend the complete course, while interviewers from wave 1 just received a short training update concerning innovations and the specifics of the second panel wave (e.g., conducting interviews via video-call).

3.3 Data collection

Wave 1

In the first survey wave, respondents were free to choose which survey mode they preferred. Respondents who selected CAWI could directly take the online survey after a successful screening, while those who preferred CAPI or CATI first had to register their contact information including a telephone number and were then approached for an interview. All incoming registrations were checked and stored. Once a sufficiently large number of registrations had been received, an initial list with contact information was distributed among the CAPI interviewers and, in the case of CATI, forwarded to BACES. During the subsequent fieldwork period, the list of participants was constantly supplemented with new entries.

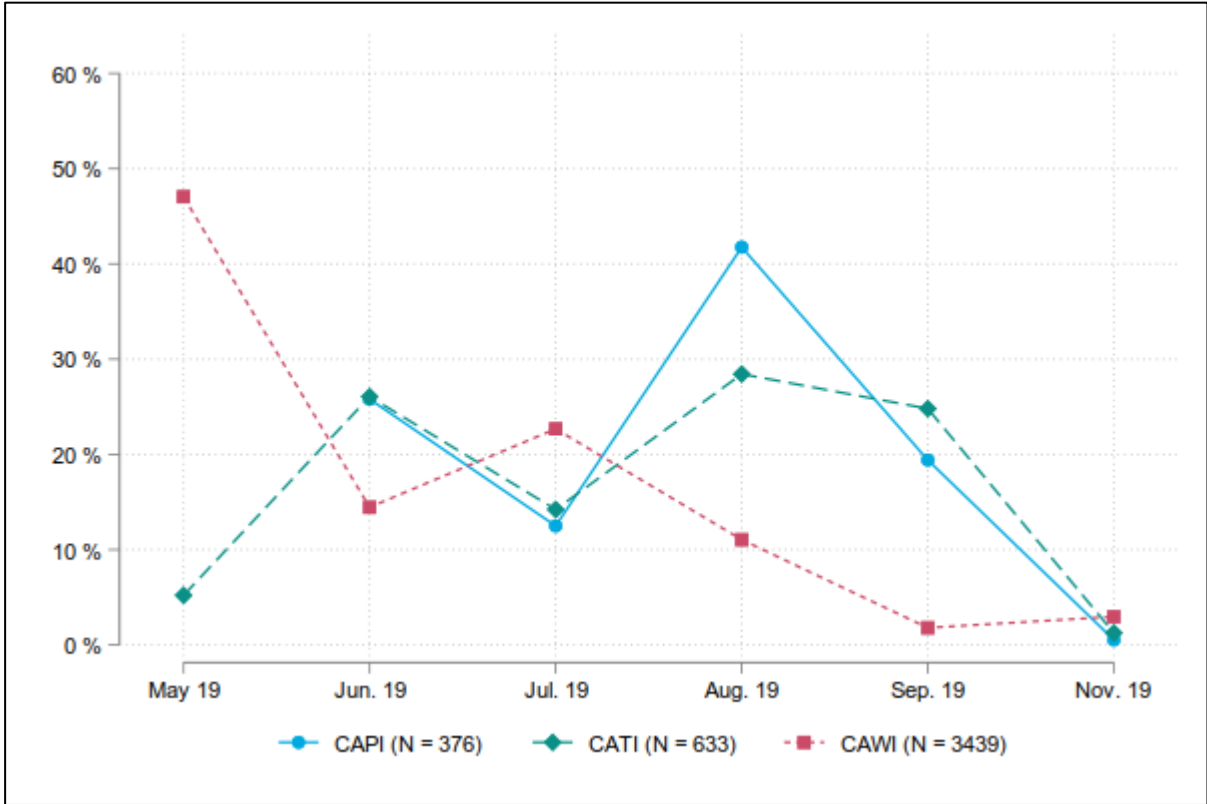
Each CAPI interviewer received a list with up to ten contacts, including the name, gender, address, and telephone number of the target persons. In a first step, the interviewers called the target person to make an appointment for the face-to-face interview. If the target person was not available, the interviewers called again on another day and/or at another time of day. The interviewers were expected to make at least ten attempts to contact the target persons. After ten unsuccessful attempts, these cases were considered “completed”, and the interviewers were compensated accordingly. The interviewers were required to document each contact (attempt), irrespective of its type and outcome, in a contact record. This also allowed interviewers to document important information including refusals or invalid telephone numbers. The ENTRA team monitored the contact record on a regular basis.

In a second step, the interviewers met with the target person at the agreed time and place to conduct the interview. All interviewers were equipped with a tablet computer with which they could conduct the interviews anywhere without having to rely on internet access. Indeed, most of the CAPI interviews were conducted at public places such as cafés, restaurants, and parks. Once the tablet was connected to the internet again, the stored responses were automatically uploaded to the project’s server system. The interviewers were expected to synchronize the data several times a week. After completing all, or at least most, of the contacts from their current list, the interviewers received a new list with additional target persons. A few interviewers did not manage to complete their lists during the time they worked for the ENTRA study. Contact details of target persons who had not yet been contacted were forwarded to another interviewer working in the same sample region.

For the CATI interviews, each telephone number was contacted at least 15 times. Approximately 90 percent of the target persons provided a mobile phone number, which generally increased the chances of reaching them. However, respondents were often busy or out and about when they answered the phone and could not conduct the interview immediately. Most participants had to be contacted several times, on average about five times, until the interview was realized. Similar to CAPI, BACES called target persons on different weekdays and at different times. The telephone survey software automatically recorded each contact attempt. Based on this information, BACES provided a weekly report of the CATI fieldwork.

Unlike CAPI and CATI, CAWI required less coordination effort during the fieldwork. Some participants approached the research team and requested assistance, for instance, because they encountered technical problems with the online survey. The ENTRA team regularly checked incoming requests and supported participants as best possible. Moreover, a monthly email reminder to continue the survey was sent to all respondents who had started but not completed the survey. Irrespective of the administration mode, all respondents who had completed an interview received a letter with the gift card promised as a thank-you for completing the survey.

Figure 3. Proportion of completed interviews in wave 1 per month and survey mode



The data collection of wave 1 started in May 2019. The first completed interview was registered on May 10 and the last interview was conducted on October 31, after a total of 26 weeks of fieldwork. The proportion of monthly-realized interviews varied widely between survey

modes and over the course of the fieldwork period (see Figure 3). A large proportion of CAWI respondents took the online survey just shortly after receiving the initial invitation letter. Within the first three weeks of fieldwork, about half of the CAWI participants completed the survey, whereas the data collection of CATI and, in particular, CAPI took several weeks to get going properly. After the first peak in May and June, respectively, participation rates dropped markedly, with CAWI showing the most volatile response rate over time. However, with the mailing of the second batch of invitations in mid-July 2019, the proportion of realized interviews increased again, before it steadily declined until the data collection was completed in October 2019.

COVID-19 survey

The additional COVID-19 survey was administered as CAWI only and followed the same fieldwork procedure applied in wave 1. Respondents could directly access the survey using an URL provided in the invitations, without further screening. The COVID-19 survey started on May 11, 2020 and ended on June 22, 2020 after six weeks of fieldwork. Similar to CAWI in wave 1, the majority of interviews were completed shortly after the invitation emails and letters were sent; approximately 75 percent of the N=1,926 respondents took the survey within the first two weeks.

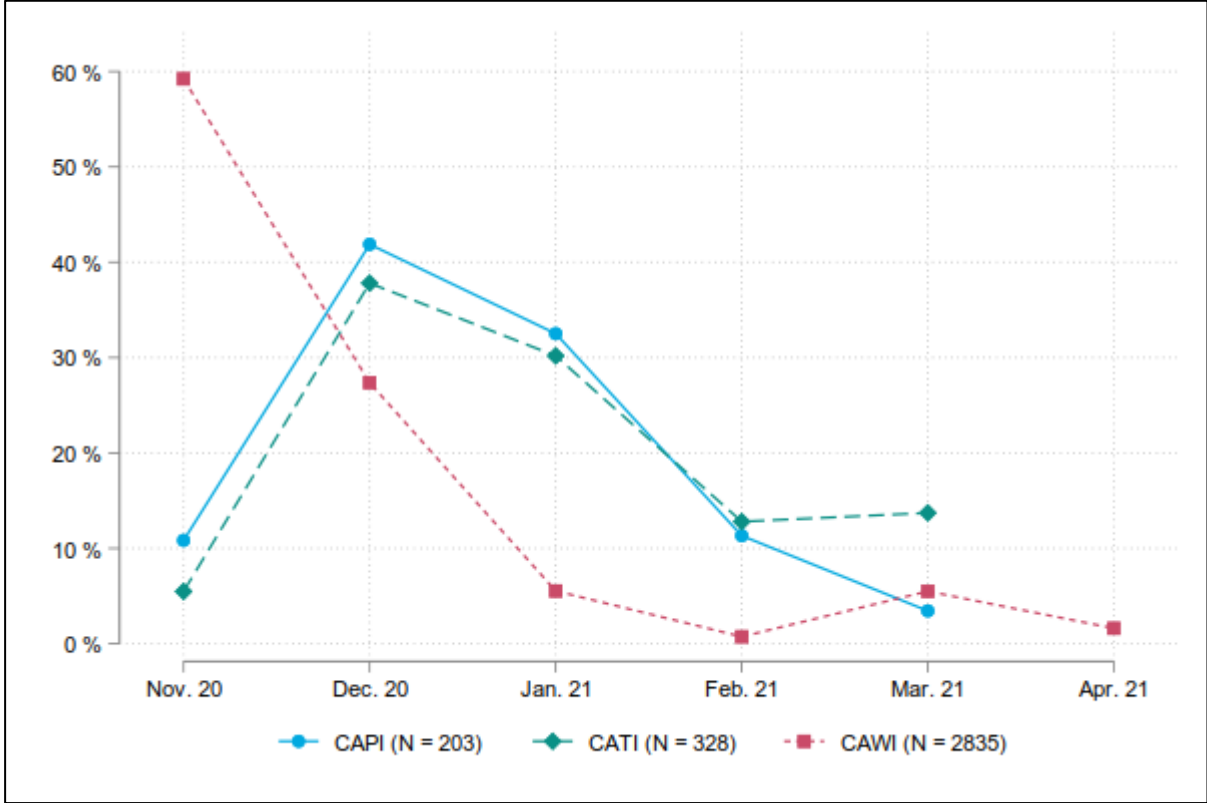
Wave 2

Finally, data collection for the second panel wave began on November 20, 2020 and ended on April 18, 2021, with fieldwork lasting a total of 21 weeks. Figure 4 displays the proportion of realized wave 2 interviews over time for each mode. As in wave 1, CAWI picked up pace faster than CAPI and CATI, with about 60 percent of the CAWI respondents completing the survey within the first few weeks of data collection.

The participation rates reflect some particularities of the fieldwork that set the second panel wave apart from the first wave. In wave 2, CAPI and CATI respondents were directly contacted to conduct the interview, without having to register in advance. Thus, data collection in these modes could start right away and proceed more quickly compared to the first survey wave. Moreover, unlike in the first wave of data collection, invitations were sent out all at once, and consequently, participation rates steadily declined after the peaks at the beginning of data collection in November and December, respectively. The only exception pertains to a small increase of completed interviews in the last months of fieldwork, which reflects the effects of the additional strategy to mobilize non-respondents by offering an alternative survey mode. CAWI non-respondents were approached via telephone from mid-February to the end of March 2021. Target persons who could not be reached via CAPI or CATI in the first place were invited to participate in the CAWI mode, from mid-March to mid-April 2021. Approximately

17 percent (N=70) of the initial CAWI non-respondents (N=411)⁹ and 52 percent (N= 165) of the CAPI and CATI non-respondents (N=316) could be motivated to participate in the survey by employing this strategy.

Figure 4. Proportion of completed interviews in wave 2 per month and survey mode



The data collection of wave 2 took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which required modification of the CAPI and CATI administration. We were unable to conduct face-to-face interviews due to social distancing regulations and our reluctance to expose respondents and interviewers to the risk of becoming infected. As an alternative to CAPI, respondents were offered the option to conduct the interview via telephone or a video-call. The CAPI interviewers were specifically trained for this situation and administered the video-calls using the online communication tool “HeiCONF”, which was provided and hosted by the University of Heidelberg. Overall, the option of participating via video-call was received positively. Most CAPI interviews, nonetheless, were conducted via telephone right away when the interviewer called to make an appointment. The CATI fieldwork could largely proceed as intended, yet with some restrictions to the workflow. Complying with the social distancing regulations meant that only three interviewers were allowed to work in the CATI studio at the same time for the majority

⁹ Most CAWI respondents who were approached via telephone did not want to conduct the interview on the telephone, choosing to take the survey online after all. Thus, the calls mainly served as additional reminders to take or continue the online survey.

of the fieldwork period. Consequently, data collection of CATI took somewhat longer than usual.

Another difficulty of the second panel wave concerned reaching target persons who had returned to their country of origin or had moved to another country. In our invitations and reminders, we stressed the importance of participation in general, but also explicitly for respondents who no longer lived in Germany. Approximately seven percent (N=240) of the wave 2 respondents (N=3,366) reported living abroad, most of whom had returned to their country of origin. Moreover, it was assumed that among the target persons who did not respond to wave 2, many had left Germany since the first survey. In order to at least roughly assess the number of individuals who had left Germany, information on the last documented residence was requested from the local registration offices for all target persons who did not participate in wave 2. Of these non-respondents (N=680) approximately 14 percent (N=97) – and thus twice as many as among the respondents – were officially registered as living abroad. This finding indicates that emigration from Germany is an important reason for panel attrition (also see section 6.3, Table 11).

3.4 Quality and fraud control

The ENTRA team employed various strategies to prevent and detect potential fraud by respondents or interviewers, thus ensuring a high quality of collected data. The control measures focused on making sure that the correct target persons participated in the survey, and that interviewers did not fake interviews. For CAPI and CATI, adequate compensation and frequent feedback sessions with the supervisor were used as tools to minimize incentives for interviewer fraud. The CATI interviewers, moreover, were randomly supervised and received feedback afterwards. Based on the monitoring and meetings with the supervisor, there was no indication of any type of fraud.

At the end of the first survey wave, an additional fraud control was implemented. In order to identify false target persons and potential fake interviews, the target persons' dates of birth and gender documented by the registration offices were compared with the respondents' answers in the survey. For CAWI, respondents' answers to the question posed in passing of whether they filled out the questionnaire for another person (e.g., their partner, children, or parents) were additionally used to identify false target persons. Overall, approximately eight percent (N=368) of the respondents showed suspicious deviations in the data or admitted misrepresentation. The proportion of suspicious cases was similar across survey modes, suggesting that interviewers might have unintentionally interviewed the wrong person rather than faked the interview – if interviewers had cheated, the proportions should be higher for CAPI and/or CATI. Nevertheless, all suspicious cases were excluded from the net sample (see section 5). Finally, a similar quality and fraud control procedure was employed for the subsequent surveys. As in the COVID-19 survey and the second panel wave no screening was administered prior to participation, we again collected basic background respondent characteristics (e.g., gender, date of birth) to assess whether interviews with 'false' target persons (i.e., not the same person as in wave 1) took place and then excluded them ex post.

3.5 Summary

Table 4 briefly summarizes the basic features of the sampling frame, recruitment procedure, and fieldwork that were applied in the ENTRA study:

Table 4. Overview of research design and fieldwork features

	Italians	Poles	Syrians	Turks
Sampling frame	Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart	Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Bremen	Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, Essen, Dortmund	Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart
Target population	– 18-40 years old – immigrated to GER btw. July 1, 2015 and February 28, 2019 – nationality of the respective country of origin and no German citizenship			
Invitations batch 1	3,633	10,263	2,087	3,633
Invitations batch 2	8,900	–	7,800	5,986
Total Invitations	12,533	10,263	9,887	9,619
Specifics (wave 1)		N = 1,000 interviews achieved already with batch 1		voucher increased to € 50 in batch 2
Highly educated excluded in batch 2	X			X
Incentive wave 1 / wave 2	€ 25 / € 20	€ 25 / € 20	€ 25 / € 20	€ 25 (€ 50) / € 20
<i>Wave 1 – 2019</i>				
Invitation Batch 1	Invitation: cw 19; Reminder 1: cw 20; Reminder 2: cw 23			
Invitation Batch 2	Invitation: cw 28; Reminder 1: cw 29; Reminder 2: cw 32			
Fieldwork	May 10, 2019 – October 31, 2019			
Survey modes	CAPI, CATI, CAWI			
<i>Additional COVID-19 survey (CAWI only) – 2020</i>				
Invitation	Invitation (email): cw 20 & cw 21; Invitation/Reminder (letter): cw 22			
Fieldwork	May 11, 2020 – June 22, 2020			
Survey modes	CAWI only			
<i>Wave 2 – 2020/2021</i>				
Invitations	CAPI & CATI: Notification: cw 47 CAWI: Invitation: cw 48; Reminder 1: cw 50; Reminder 2: cw 3			
Fieldwork	Nov 20, 2020 – April 18, 2021			
Survey modes	CAPI (telephone / video call), CATI, CAWI			

Notes: cw = calendar week; the start and end date of the fieldwork refer to the date of the first or last registered interview of the corresponding survey wave.

4 SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

In this chapter, we discuss the topics covered in the wave 1 questionnaire (section 4.1), challenges associated with the translation and the cross-cultural adaptation of the various instruments (section 4.2), the topics of the COVID-19 and wave 2 questionnaires (section 4.3), as well as a range of adjustments that allowed these instruments to be used in different modes (section 4.4).

4.1 Topics covered in the wave 1 questionnaire

The standardized questionnaire of the first survey wave covered eight thematic modules focusing on various aspects of the respondents' experiences before, as well as after migration (see Table 5).

In the first module (A), we captured socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and their close family members, their migration biography including migration motives, the route by which they came, and their legal status after immigration. The second module (B) covered German language proficiency and use, participation in German language courses, further efforts to learn German, as well as their English skills. In the third module (C), respondents were asked about their identification with different groups and how they perceived discrimination in Germany. Additionally, we measured acculturation and attitudes towards democracy and institutions. Religious belonging and practices before and after migration were covered in the fourth module (D), while the fifth module (E) tackled social integration. This module focused on co-ethnic and inter-ethnic networks in as well as outside Germany, and on characteristics of the respondent's core network in Germany. In the sixth (E) and seventh (F) module, we collected information on educational attainment and employment experiences before and after migration. The final thematic module (H) covered health in terms of self-assessed general and mental health, and a range of personality traits. The CAWI questionnaire of the first survey wave took about 40 minutes on average, while the CAPI and CATI interviews lasted around 50 to 55 minutes.

The wave 1 questionnaire combines a variety of survey instruments taken from well-known national and international studies with newly developed items. Using established measures has the advantage that the questions and items are tested, and that findings can be compared to other contexts and immigrant groups. For instance, to ensure comparability with existing international studies, we implemented the *Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) Integration Index* (Harder et al. 2018), a multidimensional measure of immigrant integration in its short 12-item version. Other instruments were drawn from the *German Socio-Economic Panel Study* (Goebel et al. 2018), the *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees* (Liebig et al. 2021), the *New Immigrant Survey* (Jasso et al. 2005), the *Netherlands' Life Course Survey* (Tolsma et al. 2014), and the *World Value Survey* (Haerpfer et al. 2020). Additionally, there is a substantive overlap with the measures implemented in the earlier SCIP study ("Causes and Consequences of Socio-Cultural Integration Processes among New Immigrants in Europe") and the Canadian Tajribati study

("Tajribati – Early Integration Trajectories of Syrians in Canada"; <https://tajribati.ca/>). SCIP addressed newly arrived immigrants from Poland and Turkey in Germany during the years 2011 to 2013 (Diehl et al. 2016) and can be used for comparisons with the ENTRA survey. The Canadian Tajribati project, which was carried out roughly at the same time as ENTRA, focused on Syrian refugees, an immigrant group also covered in ENTRA. We were in close contact with the Tajribati research team, discussed the questionnaires, and eventually implemented many overlapping measures.

Table 5. Overview of wave 1 survey topics

Module	Content
<i>A. Demography & Migration Biography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sociodemographic characteristics, origin region, proxy-information on family and household members – Migration decision, -biography, -motive, -route, remigration intention – Family in destination and origin country, planned family reunion
<i>B. Language</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Self-assessed German language skills and use – Participation in language and integration classes
<i>C. Identity & Exclusion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification (religious, ethnic, national, etc.) – Perceived discrimination – Acculturation (e.g. gender roles) – Attitudes towards democracy and institutions
<i>D. Religion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Religious belonging and practices
<i>E. Social Integration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social contacts – Core network
<i>F. Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Educational careers
<i>G. Labor Market</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professional experience – Labor market integration
<i>H. Health & Personality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Personality traits – General and mental health – Trauma experience

In addition to filling in the questionnaire, respondents were invited to participate in a cognitive test to assess their perceptual information-processing speed. They had to assign symbols to a corresponding number using a table with nine symbol-digit-combinations. After a small exercise in which they learned how to do this, they had 90 seconds to assign as many symbols to digits as possible. The concept and procedure of the test was similar to the *Digit-Symbol-Test* applied in the *German Socio-Economic Panel* (Lang et al., 2007). The test scores available in the scientific use file represent the number of correctly solved items.

For quality assurance and administrative purposes, we included further modules regarding tracking information, interview experience, and – for CAPI and CATI – interviewer remarks. In order to enable respondents to be contacted for the second wave, they were explicitly asked

for their consent and their preferred form of contact. If respondents refused to participate in the following wave, we collected information on the underlying reasons and sought to convince them to participate, emphasizing the importance of gaining knowledge about their future experiences. In the CAWI version of the questionnaire, respondents completed a short list of questions about how they experienced the interview. They could also indicate the degree of fatigue and how they perceived the quality of the interview. For CAPI and CATI, interviewers evaluated the quality of the interview, its difficulty, as well as the interview situation in general. Prior to conducting the first interview, interviewers had to complete a short questionnaire as well, reporting on sociodemographic characteristics, their motivation to work as an interviewer and their work experiences in this capacity.

4.2 Translation and cross-cultural adaptations

The original English version of the questionnaire was translated into the different CO-languages. We made substantial effort to ensure comparability of the questions across languages and immigrant groups.

The first translation of the questionnaire into the four CO-languages was performed by a survey-trained translation agency. The first translated versions of the questions were checked and corrected several times by independent native speakers. In some cases, a verbatim translation was not possible, as the wording would not fit the cultural context. In such cases, additional native speakers were consulted, and differences in meaning were discussed with the research team. In a pretest with 210 respondents, the questionnaire and its translation were thoroughly tested, with a particular focus on the comprehensibility of sensitive and complex topics. Among Syrians, additional cognitive pretests with 10 respondents were conducted for an in-depth investigation of delicate questions concerning their flight experience (e.g., experiences of traumatic events). The pretests revealed only minor difficulties.

In response to these problems, we implemented a range of modifications. For instance, the cognitive pretests indicated that the question “How close do you feel to Syrians?” posed some difficulties for Syrian respondents. The concept of ‘closeness’ did not apply to their understanding of belonging. Consequently, we decided to refrain from a verbatim translation and accepted the suggested figurative translation. Moreover, some questions only applied to certain groups of new immigrants. For instance, Turkish and Syrian respondents were asked about their residence permit, whereas this information was not meaningful for immigrants from EU countries who have a permanent residence permit based on their EU-citizenship. We also used preloads in the programming code to refer to the country of origin, co-ethnic people, and the respective CO-language. We repeatedly adjusted questions and answer categories to reflect group-specific manifestations. For example, regarding respondents’ identification with their ethnic group, Turks were asked “Various groups of people live in Turkey, such as Turks, Kurds, Zazaki, Circassians and many others. Which of these groups do you belong to?” while Syrians were asked “Various groups of people live in Syria, such as Syrians, Kurds, Yazidi, Turkmen and many others. Which of these groups do you belong to?”. For other questions, the

answer categories had to consider the specific institutional setting of the country of origin, such as using the appropriate labels for educational degrees.

4.3 Topics covered in the COVID-19 and the wave 2 questionnaires

The COVID-19 survey aimed at assessing how the pandemic affected respondents' everyday lives and, by that, their early integration processes. The web-only survey was much shorter compared to the questionnaire in wave 1 (average processing time of about 10 minutes), and apart from a few select panel items in each module, included mainly new questions that explicitly addressed economic, family and health conditions during the pandemic, as well as (r)emigration tendencies as a possible consequence of the challenges faced during this period. In a first step, respondents were asked about their current location and their intention to leave Germany. Following the measurements implemented in SOEP-CoV, a supplementary survey of the *German Socio-Economic Panel* (SOEP; Kühne et al. 2020) and the DynaMORE ("Dynamic Modelling of Resilience"; <https://dynamore-project.eu/>) study, we included questions on COVID-19-related hardships and burdens. We also covered panel questions on the frequency of social contacts, language use, German skills, closeness to certain groups, religious practices, labor market challenges, mental health, and loneliness. To capture the seeming increase in local voluntary activities at the beginning of the pandemic, we also added questions about these activities to the questionnaire.

The questionnaire for the second wave focused on panel questions and included a few new instruments. It was substantially shorter than the first wave questionnaire, as there was no need to consider time-invariant measures and items related to pre-migration experiences once more. The CAWI questionnaire of the second panel wave took on average about 30 minutes, and the CAPI and CATI interviews around 45 minutes.

For wave 2, we adapted wave 1 questions that referred to the 'time since arrival in Germany' to the 'time since the first survey'. Apart from that, time-variant questions were asked in the same way and order as in the first wave. New questions on political participation, perceived overqualification, perceived phenotypical distinctiveness and transnational remittances were added to the questionnaire. As the COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing during the second panel wave, questions regarding dismay, hardship and employment changes due to the pandemic were included at the end of the questionnaire. To cover (r)emigration, we implemented a brief module on the reasons for (r)emigrating and return intentions. This module only addressed respondents who had moved abroad. This group just responded to this module, leaving out the remaining parts of the questionnaire.

In a few instances, we had to correct or supplement information from wave 1. For example, in the questions on wearing a headscarf, which were addressed to Muslim women, the filter was misplaced in wave 1. Accordingly, in the second wave, Muslim women were asked about the frequency of wearing a headscarf outside their home – at the time of the second survey, the first survey, and before they migrated to Germany. Other questions which needed some adjustment referred to respondents' descriptions of their current/last job. This question was used to classify jobs according to the "International Standard Classification of Occupations"

(ISCO). As some answers given in wave 1 were too short or ambiguous and could not be coded, respondents who could not be assigned a value in wave 1 were asked again to (retrospectively) describe their jobs. Finally, respondents who had not participated in the Digit-Symbol-Test during the first wave, were once more invited to participate.

4.4 Adjustments of survey instruments to different modes

To implement the multi-mode survey, we used the tool *LimeSurvey* to program the questionnaire and generate different versions for CAWI, CAPI and CATI. Variation was introduced for the display of questions and interviewer instructions. To support the interviewers in the CATI and CAPI modes, we included additional remarks, such as “read out”. For conducting face-to-face interviews, it was important that these interviews could take place without relying on (stable) internet access. We distributed tablet computers, which were easy to handle and could be used offline via the survey app *OfflineSurveys*. During the pretest, the technical application of the survey was thoroughly tested. Neither in the pretest, nor in the main surveys were significant technical difficulties encountered.

The implementation of the Digit-Symbol-Test for all survey modes was challenging. The test was programmed and administered online using *SoSci Survey*. CAWI respondents were directly forwarded to the test after completing the survey. CATI respondents were asked about their email address after completing the survey and were then invited via email to participate in the additional test. To provide an incentive to take the test, an additional voucher of 5 Euros was offered. For CAPI respondents, an alternative version of the test was designed using *LimeSurvey*, which could be self-administered offline using the interviewers’ tablet computers. However, the implementation of the Digit-Symbol-Test on the tablet differed from the *SoSci Survey* version in the level of practicability. Due to several technical difficulties, the test results collected in this way were problematic and are therefore not included in the scientific use file. Instead, all CAPI respondents – as well as respondents from the other modes who also did not take the test in wave 1 – were invited in wave 2 to take the online version of the Digit-Symbol-Test. They were offered an additional incentive of 10 Euros for the completion of the test.

The technical implementation of all surveys was tested several times regarding the filtering of the questions. For this purpose, we used systematic filter schemes and prototypes. We also considered the respective CO-languages and employed native, as well as German speakers. Finally, we made use of the 210 interviews conducted in the pretest to identify and correct (filter) errors ex post. In this pretest, we also collected information on respondent burden and fatigue.

5 RESPONSE RATES AND SAMPLE SIZES

In this chapter, we present response rates and sample sizes for the different survey waves and immigrant groups. The response rate represents the proportion of target persons who took part in the survey (net sample) of the total number of target persons that were invited to the survey (gross sample). Typically, invalid addresses are considered as ‘neutral’ and only target persons who were successfully contacted are used as a reference (adjusted gross sample).

The applied sampling strategy, together with some modifications during the fieldwork, make it difficult to unequivocally define the adjusted gross samples, and thus to specify the response rate. Table 6 provides an overview of the numbers on which the response rate calculations were based. The *gross sample* corresponds to the total number of invitation letters sent out for the first survey wave (N=42,302).

Apart from invalid addresses (N=14,211), respondents who did not meet the criteria of the target population were excluded from the calculations. This applied to three categories of respondents: (1) cases that could be identified as non-targets during the screening – and presumably were not the persons addressed in the invitation (N=743), (2) highly educated respondents who were willing to participate but were not interviewed as part of the strategy to adjust for selection bias in the Italian and Turkish subsamples (N=2,137), and (3) individuals who first successfully passed the screening but indicated divergent information (different age, gender, nationality, or date of arrival) in the survey and were excluded ex post (N=368). This also included ‘false’ target persons that were identified when the collected data was controlled for fraud (see section 3.4).

About one third of the addresses provided by the local registration offices turned out to be invalid. The proportion of invalid addresses was larger in the Italian and Polish- than in the Syrian and Turkish subsamples. In comparison, the proportion of excluded cases that were not part of the target population was relatively small (1.8 percent and 0.9 percent). Net of these exclusions, the *adjusted gross sample* comprises N=24,843 target persons.

Table 6. Sample sizes and response rates in wave 1

	Italians		Poles		Syrians		Turks		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Gross sample	12,533	100.0	10,263	100.0	9,887	100.0	9,619	100.0	42,302	100.0
Invalid address	4,848	38.7	3,817	37.2	2,803	28.4	2,743	28.5	14,211	33.6
Not target population	185	1.5	123	1.2	352	3.6	83	0.9	743	1.8
Sample adjustment	1,194	9.5	–	–	–	–	943	9.8	2,137	5.1
Excluded ex post	43	0.3	63	0.6	171	1.7	91	1.0	368	0.9
Adjusted gross sample	6,263	100.0	6,260	100.0	6,561	100.0	5,759	100.0	24,843	100.0
No response	5,003	79.9	4,936	78.9	4,773	72.8	4,399	76.4	19,111	76.9
Refusal	51	0.8	28	0.5	230	3.5	122	2.1	431	1.7
Dropout	116	1.9	207	3.3	359	5.5	171	3.0	853	3.4
Net sample wave 1	1,093	17.5	1,089	17.4	1,199	18.3	1,067	18.5	4,448	17.9

The majority of target persons who received an invitation and reminder letter did not respond at all (76.9 percent). Syrians and Turks responded more often than individuals from the other groups, but they also more often actively refused to participate. Moreover, some respondents started but did not complete the survey (3.4 percent) – most of which were CAWI respondents who began answering the first few questions and then stopped. Finally, N=4,448 target persons completed the survey; they represent the *net sample* of the first survey wave. This corresponds to an average *response rate* of 17.9 percent.¹⁰ The response rates do not vary considerably between the subsamples.

Most of the wave 1 respondents consented to be contacted for another survey in the future (see Table 7). The few respondents who refused to be contacted again (3.7 percent) were not invited to participate in the follow-up surveys. Less than half of all wave 1 respondents took part in the additional COVID-19 survey (43.3 percent). The lack of a monetary incentive and the web-only format of this survey may have hampered the response rate. The lower response rates among groups with a higher participation in CAPI and CATI in wave 1 (i.e., Syrians and Turks) are in line with this assumption.

In wave 2, we achieved a response rate of 75.7 percent. Turks and, in particular, Syrians showed lower response rates than Italians and Poles. In total, N=3,366 target persons participated in both panel waves.

Table 7. Overall sample sizes and response rates

	Italians		Poles		Syrians		Turks		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sample wave 1	1,093	100.0	1,089	100.0	1,199	100.0	1,067	100.0	4,448	100.0
Panel consent	1,056	96.6	1,052	96.6	1,159	96.7	1,017	95.3	4,284	96.3
COVID-19 survey ^a	495	45.3	536	49.2	447	37.3	448	42.0	1,926	43.3
Sample wave 2 ^a	878	80.3	858	78.8	826	68.9	804	75.4	3,366	75.7

Notes: a = Percentages refer to the total number of responses in wave 1.

Table 8 shows the participation in wave 1 and wave 2 by survey mode for each subsample. In wave 1, respondents chose their preferred survey mode. Most respondents took the survey online (77.3 percent), but there were large differences between immigrant groups. Poles and Italians mainly participated via CAWI, whereas Syrians and Turks also frequently made use of CAPI and CATI. About 20 percent of the Turks and more than half of the Syrians chose one of the two ‘personal’ survey modes. CAPI was a particularly prominent mode in the Syrian subsample. In wave 2, we assumed that respondents would participate in the same survey mode as in wave 1. The numbers illustrate that the proportion of respondents who took CAPI or CATI was considerably lower in the second compared to the first wave – and that of CAWI increased correspondingly. This pattern could indicate tendencies of selective panel attrition by mode, that is, CAPI and CATI respondents were more likely to drop out of the panel (see section 6.3).

¹⁰ Calculations applying a more restrictive definition of the adjusted gross sample (i.e., only invalid addresses are considered “neutral”) yield a slightly lower average response rate of 15.8 percent.

Moreover, target persons who could not be reached via CAPI and CATI in wave 2 were invited to take the survey online instead (see section 3.3). This strategy also increased CAWI rates.

Table 8. Participation in wave 1 and wave 2 by survey mode

	Italians		Poles		Syrians		Turks		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sample Wave 1	1,093	100.0	1,089	100.0	1,199	100.0	1,067	100.0	4,448	100.0
CAPI	28	2.6	12	1.1	294	24.5	42	3.9	376	8.5
CATI	95	8.7	32	2.9	329	27.4	177	16.6	633	14.2
CAWI	970	88.7	1,045	96.0	576	48.0	848	79.5	3,439	77.3
Sample Wave 2	878	100.0	858	100.0	826	100.0	804	100.0	3,366	100.0
CAPI	16	1.8	12	1.4	150	18.2	25	3.1	203	6.0
CATI	70	8.0	18	2.1	154	18.6	86	10.7	328	9.7
CAWI	792	90.2	828	96.5	522	63.2	693	86.2	2,835	84.2

6 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS AND SELECTIVITY

This chapter provides an overview of the sample composition and addresses sample selectivity in the first survey wave as well as throughout the panel study. In section 6.1, we present distributions of basic demographic characteristics of the respondents. In a next step, we contrast the composition of the ENTRA sample with the composition of other data sources (section 6.2). Finally, we address panel attrition in the COVID-19 survey and the second panel wave (section 6.3).

6.1 Demographic characteristics of wave 1 respondents

Table 9 outlines the distribution of respondents' gender, age, duration of stay in Germany, highest educational attainment achieved prior to immigration, and the main activity at the time of the first survey. In the Italian and Turkish subsamples, the distribution of gender is relatively balanced with slightly more male respondents among Turks. The other two subsamples, in contrast, show a skewed distribution. Among Poles, women make up 64.6 percent of the sample, whereas 65.3 percent of the Syrian respondents were male. The high proportion of Syrian men in the sample reflects the sex composition of the migration influx from Syria to Germany (BAMF 2021: 210). In the Polish subsample, however, a disproportionate number of women appear to have taken part in the survey.

Respondents were on average between 28 and 29 years old. All groups show a similar age distribution – probably also because the sampling frame was set to target persons aged 18 to 40. Italians, Poles and Turks show a very similar duration of stay. At the time of the first survey wave, respondents in these three groups had lived in Germany for on average 22 to 25 months, i.e. approximately two years, with a standard deviation of one year. Syrian respondents had on average stayed longer in Germany – about three and a half years – and they mostly

arrived in 2015. This pattern mirrors the trend of refugee migration from Syria to Germany (see section 2.2), with most Syrians immigrating in mid-2015. 48 percent of all respondents held a tertiary educational degree. This proportion was highest among Poles (63.6 percent). Most respondents were employed at the time of the first survey with much higher rates among Italians and Poles compared to Turks, and particularly to Syrians, who more frequently were unemployed, in education, or engaged in other activities such as looking after children.

Table 9. Distributions of selected demographic characteristics (wave 1)

	Italians (N=1,093)	Poles (N=1,089)	Syrians (N=1,199)	Turks (N=1,067)	Total (N=4,448)
<i>Gender (%)</i>					
Female	51.9	64.6	34.7	43.7	48.4
Male	48.1	35.4	65.3	56.3	51.6
<i>Age (M/SD)</i>	28.24 (5.24)	28.91 (5.32)	28.57 (5.62)	28.90 (5.75)	28.65 (5.49)
<i>Duration of stay (M/SD)</i>	24.52 (13.34)	24.58 (13.18)	41.60 (10.02)	22.32 (12.47)	28.61 (14.62)
<i>Education (%)</i>					
None/primary	1.4	0.7	10.4	2.4	3.9
Secondary	51.7	35.7	61.6	41.5	48.0
Tertiary	46.9	63.6	27.9	56.1	48.0
<i>Main activity (%)</i>					
Working	77.8	76.1	37.3	52.0	60.3
Unemployed	5.8	7.4	13.1	14.4	10.2
In education	12.2	7.5	29.9	23.3	18.5
Other	4.2	9.0	19.7	10.3	11.0

The educational composition seems to be skewed towards the more educated segments of the different populations of new immigrants (see section 6.2 for a detailed comparison with other data sources). For the Italian and Turkish subsamples, we adjusted the sampling strategy during fieldwork (see section 3.1) to include more individuals with lower-than-tertiary education levels. Consequently, the distributions in these groups differ from that of the Polish subsample, for which the target number of respondents was achieved before the adjustment was introduced. Syrians, in contrast, more frequently hold a secondary educational degree (61.6 percent) than respondents from the other groups, and there is also a higher share of individuals with primary or lower than primary level education (10.4 percent) than in the other groups.

6.2 Sample selectivity

Official data which could be used as a benchmark for assessing how well the composition of the ENTRA respondents corresponds to the composition of the different populations of new immigrants under study was not available. We, therefore, followed a different strategy and used different data sets and approaches to arrive at group-specific comparisons:

- (1) We contrasted the ENTRA data to the gross sample obtained by the local registration offices. From this local data, we drew our net sample. The gross sample contains all recent immigrants from the respective groups of origin who lived in the selected sample regions. Differences in the distribution of respondents' sociodemographic characteristics between the net and the gross sample indicate selection bias in the ENTRA sample. The data provided from the local registration offices only contain information on gender and age; the comparison is therefore limited to these two characteristics.
- (2) We compared the composition of the ENTRA sample with the composition of recent immigrants covered in the German *Microcensus*. The *Microcensus* is an annual household survey in which one percent of the population in Germany is sampled. We used data from the years 2015 to 2018.¹¹ Additionally, for Syrians, we analyzed the *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees*¹² from the years 2016 and 2017 (Liebig et al. 2021).¹³ We applied the same criteria that we used to define the ENTRA target population (see section 2.2) to these data sources and accordingly compared the distributions for individuals in the same age range (18 to 40 years old), with the same citizenship (Italian, Polish, Syrian, Turkish) and times of arrival (between July 1, 2015 and February 28, 2019). The comparisons refer to gender, age and educational attainment.
- (3) We examined the various distributions for the different ENTRA waves. The initial sample composition of wave 1 serves as the reference for the comparison with the samples of the COVID-19 survey and the second panel wave.

Net sample (ENTRA wave 1) versus gross sample (local registry data)

Figure 5 presents the proportion of females in the gross sample and the net sample of the first survey wave. In all subsamples, the proportion of females is higher in the ENTRA net sample than in the gross sample. Among Syrians and Turks, the differences between the gross and the net sample are marginal, whereas for Italians and, in particular, Poles the results indicate an overrepresentation of women.

In the net sample, respondents are slightly younger compared to the target population in the gross sample (see Figure 6). However, with a median age of 29 and 30 years respectively, the difference between the samples is small.

¹¹ The ENTRA study sampled new immigrants, including refugees, who immigrated to Germany between 2015 and 2019. With the *Microcensus*, it was not possible to cover the entire period, because data from 2019 was not yet available.

¹² DOI: 10.5684/soep.iab-bamf-soep-mig.2019. Data access was provided via a Scientific Use File supplied by the Research Data Centre (FDZ) of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB).

¹³ Many Syrian refugees lived in welcome centers or group accommodation for several months after their arrival in Germany. They are likely to be underrepresented in the 2015 and 2016 *Microcensus* data, since the *Microcensus* samples private households. The *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees*, in contrast, represents a better suited sample of Syrian refugees for this period. It was drawn from the *Ausländerzentralregister*.

Figure 5. Proportion of females in the gross and net sample (in percent)

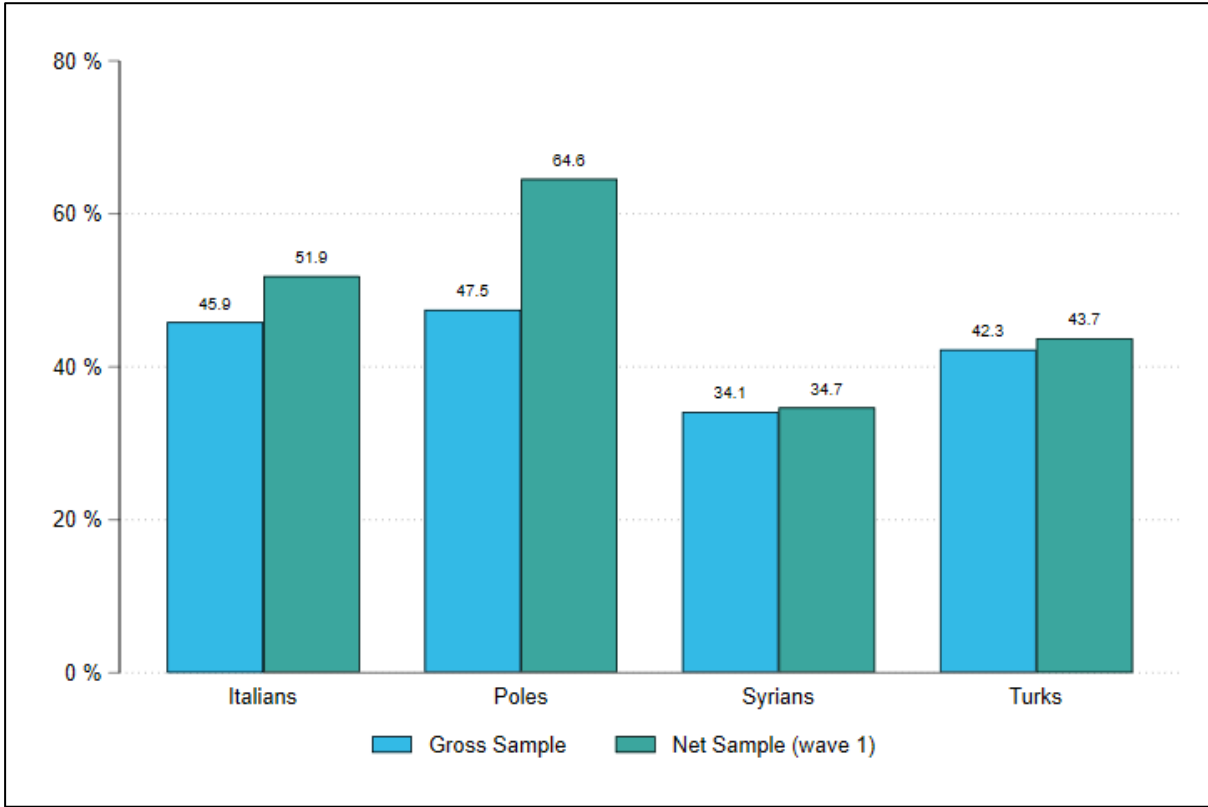
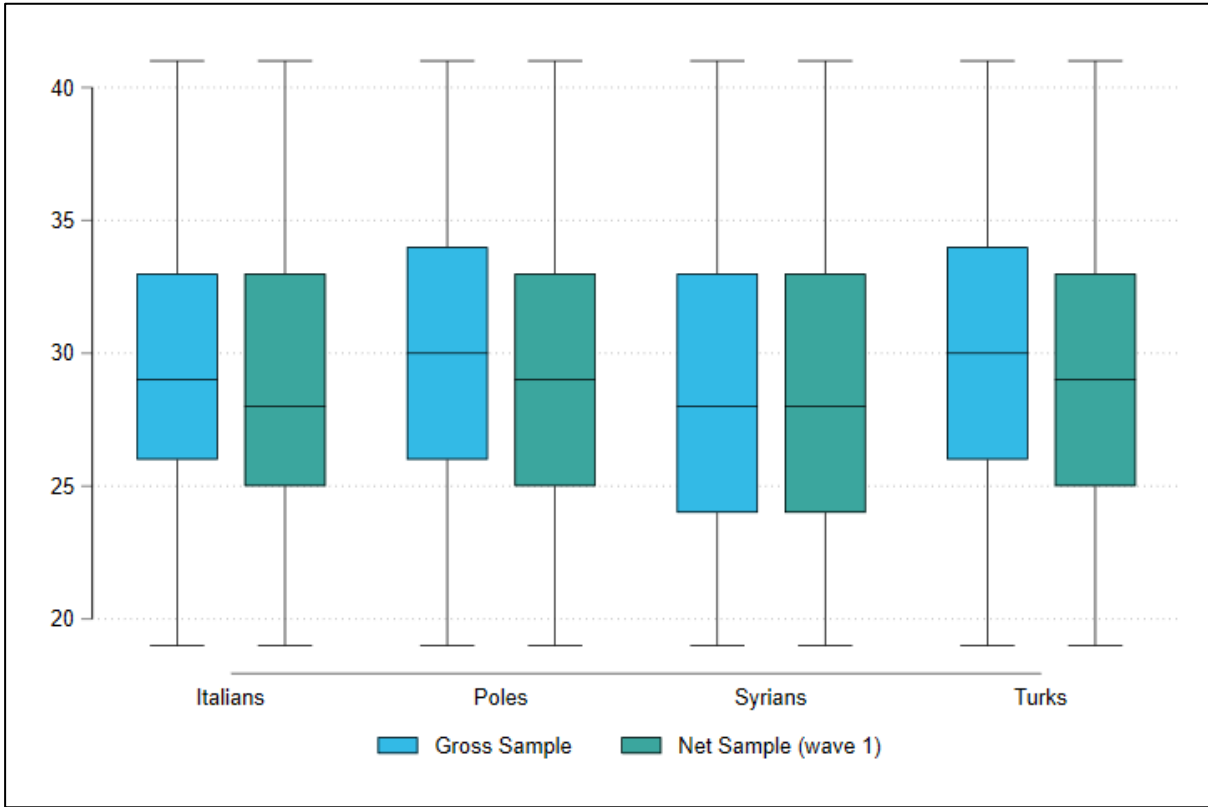


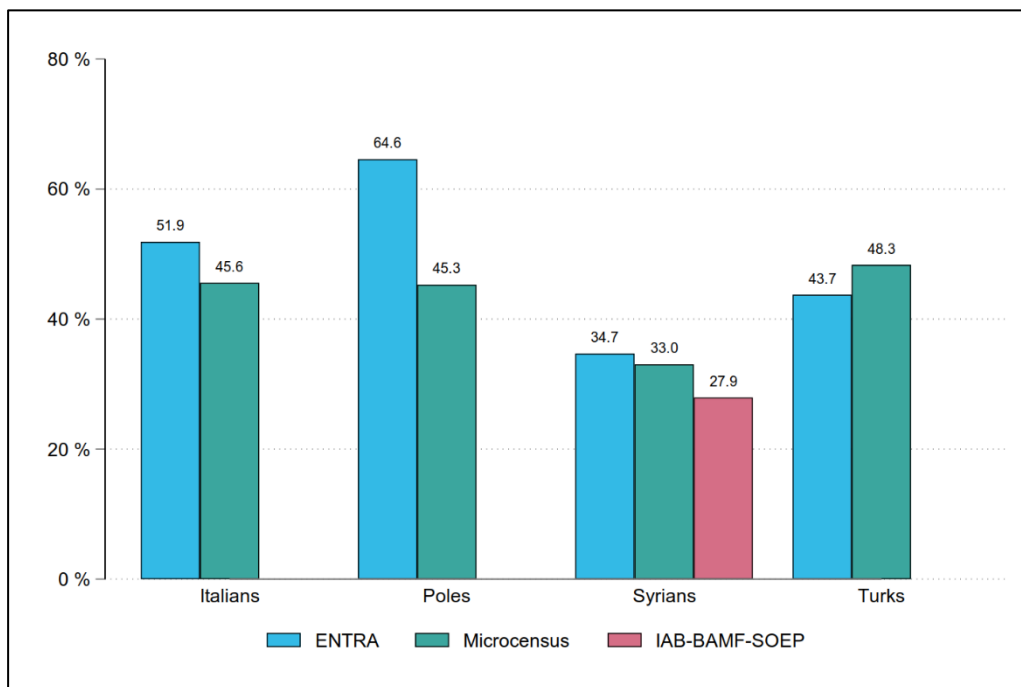
Figure 6. Distribution of age in the gross and net sample (in years)



ENTRA wave 1 versus Microcensus and IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees

When comparing the ENTRA sample of the first survey wave with the two other data sources, the findings indicate that women are overrepresented in the ENTRA sample (see Figure 7). The overall proportion of females in the ENTRA sample is higher than in the *Microcensus*. This pattern applies to Syrians, Italians and, above all, Poles. Among Turks, however, women are underrepresented in the ENTRA sample.

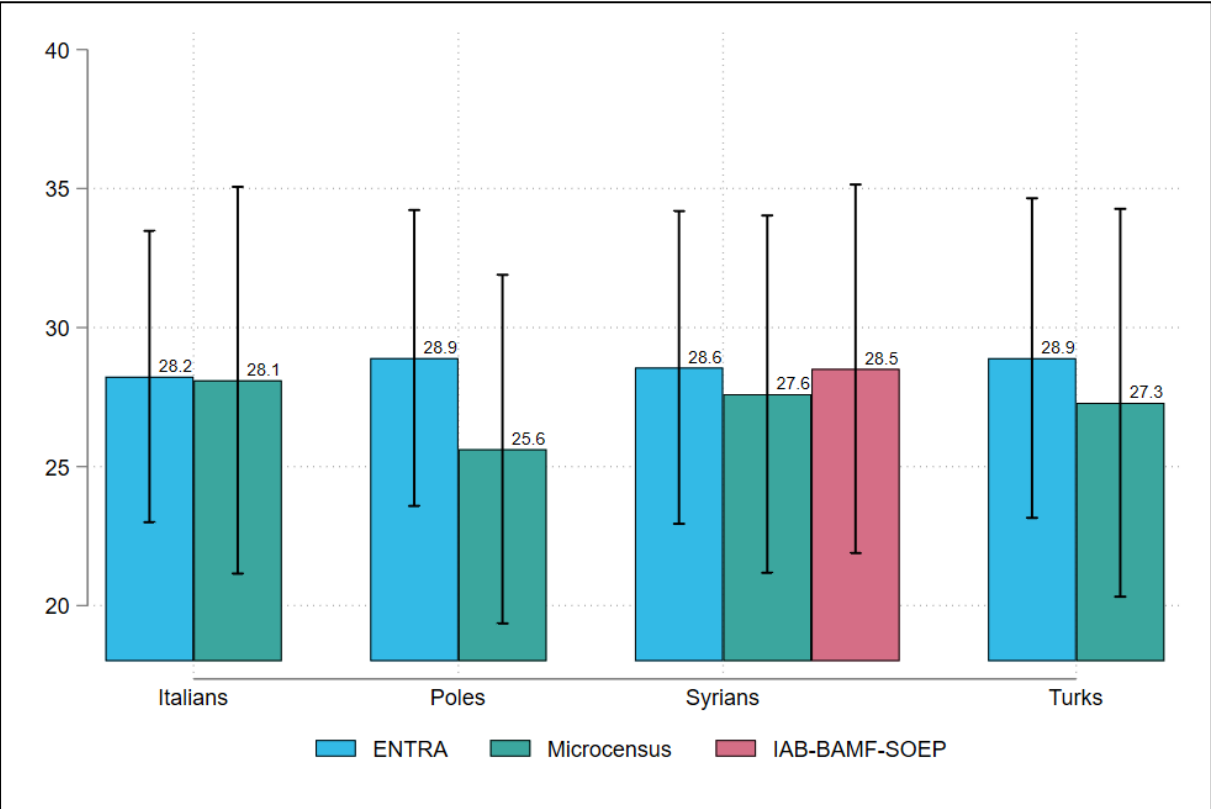
Figure 7. Proportion of females in ENTRA, the Microcensus and the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees (in percent)



Source: RDC of the Federal Statistical Office and Statistical Offices of the Federal States, DOI: 10.21242/12211.2015.00.00.1.1.1 to 10.21242/12211.2018.00.00.1.1.3, and RDC of the Socio-Economic Panel, DOI: 10.5684/soep.iab-bamf-soep-mig.2019, own calculations.

Figure 8 shows the age distribution in the different samples. It indicates that the ENTRA population is somewhat older than the respective reference population in the *Microcensus*. The difference is greatest among Poles, who are on average three years older in the ENTRA first wave survey. The other immigrant groups differ by one year or less. Syrians in the ENTRA sample are about the same age as Syrians participating in the *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees*.

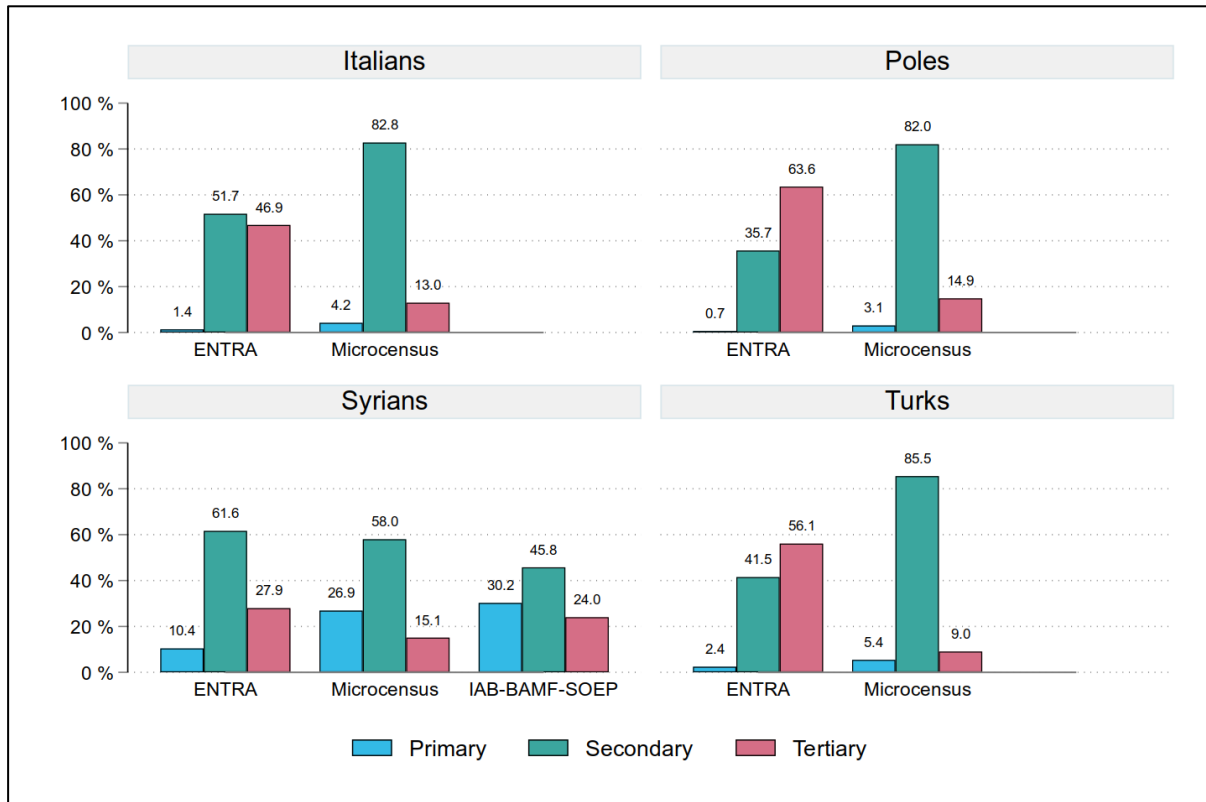
Figure 8. Mean age in ENTRA, the Microcensus and the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees (in years)



Source: RDC of the Federal Statistical Office and Statistical Offices of the Federal States, DOI: 10.21242/12211.2015.00.00.1.1.1 to 10.21242/12211.2018.00.00.1.1.3, and RDC of the Socio-Economic Panel, DOI: 10.5684/soep.iab-bamf-soep-mig.2019, own calculations.

The most substantive difference concerns the distributions of educational attainment. Figure 9 illustrates the highest educational degree achieved by respondents in ENTRA, the *Microcensus* and the *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees*. For this step, we had to use rather broad categories of educational qualifications to allow for a harmonized comparison between different immigrant groups and datasets. The results indicate that respondents in the ENTRA sample are selective with regard to their educational background. Despite our attempts to adjust for this bias in the Italian and Turkish subsamples during the wave 1 fieldwork (see section 3.1 and 6.1), the proportion of respondents with a tertiary degree is still considerably higher in the ENTRA sample than in the *Microcensus*. Target persons with low level qualifications, and in particular those with a secondary degree are underrepresented in the Italian, Polish and Turkish subsamples. Among Syrians, the proportion of respondents with a tertiary degree again is considerably higher in ENTRA than in the *Microcensus*. At the same time, this comparison reveals similar shares of target persons with a secondary degree. The *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees*, in contrast, shows a similar proportion of Syrians with a tertiary degree, but fewer respondents with secondary degree. Thus, it is difficult to decide if Syrians with either a secondary degree or a tertiary degree are overrepresented in the ENTRA sample. However, the comparisons with the *Microcensus* and the *IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees* indicate that less-educated Syrians are underrepresented in the ENTRA sample.

Figure 9. Educational attainment in ENTRA, the Microcensus and the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees (in percent)



Source: RDC of the Federal Statistical Office and Statistical Offices of the Federal States, DOI: 10.21242/12211.2015.00.00.1.1.1 to 10.21242/12211.2018.00.00.1.1.3, and RDC of the Socio-Economic Panel, DOI: 10.5684/soep.iab-bamf-soep-mig.2019, own calculations.

Sample composition across survey waves

Differences in respondents' sociodemographic composition across the different survey waves indicate tendencies of selective panel attrition. We therefore focus on these features once more and compare them across the different ENTRA surveys.

Figure 10 displays the proportion of females for each survey wave. It shows that the gender distribution was rather stable across waves. The age composition of the sample slightly changed over the course of the study (see Figure 11) with new immigrants in the COVID-19 sample and/or the wave 2 sample being somewhat older than in wave 1 (reflecting a one-year difference in median age). Only in the Turkish subsample was the age distribution almost identical across the three surveys. Differences can also be observed in respondents' educational attainment (see Figure 12). Individuals with a tertiary degree in all immigrant groups were more likely to take part in the additional COVID-19 survey and in the second panel wave compared to the initial panel wave. However, these differences were small.

Figure 10. Proportion of females across the ENTRA survey waves (in percent)

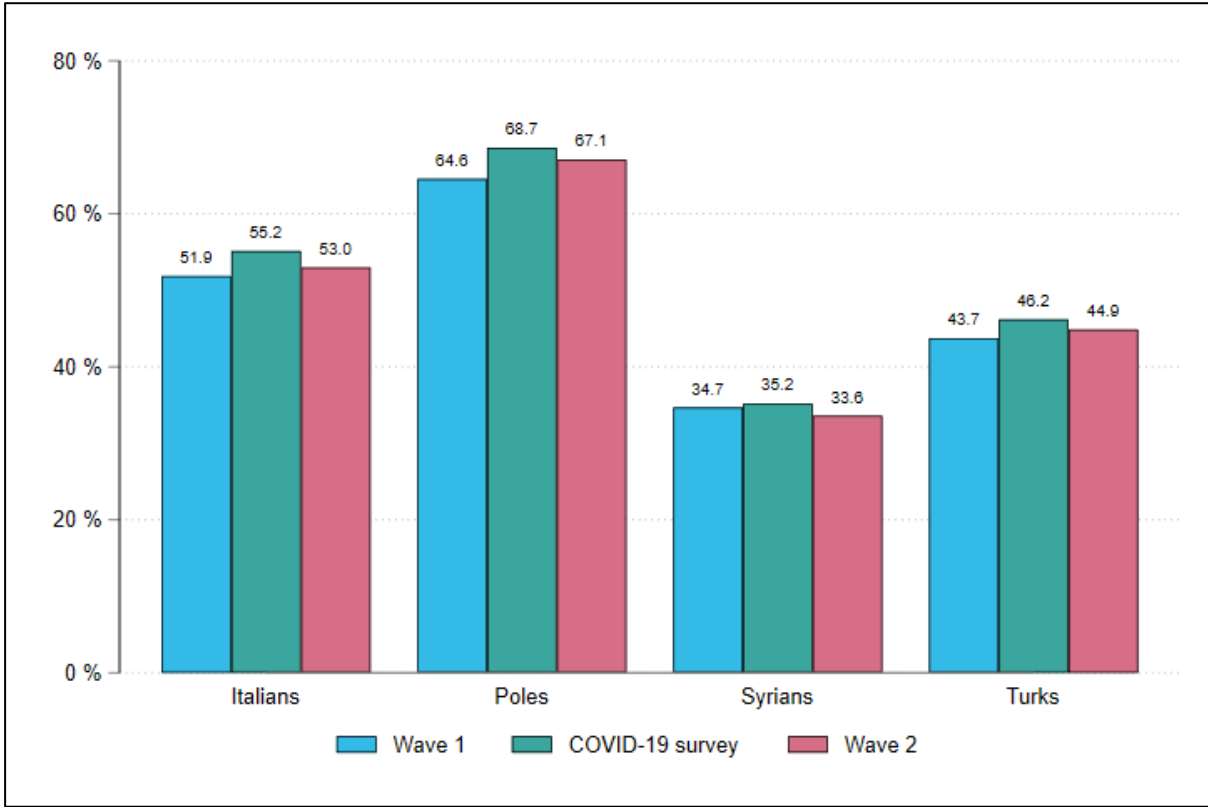


Figure 11. Distribution of age across the ENTRA survey waves (in years)

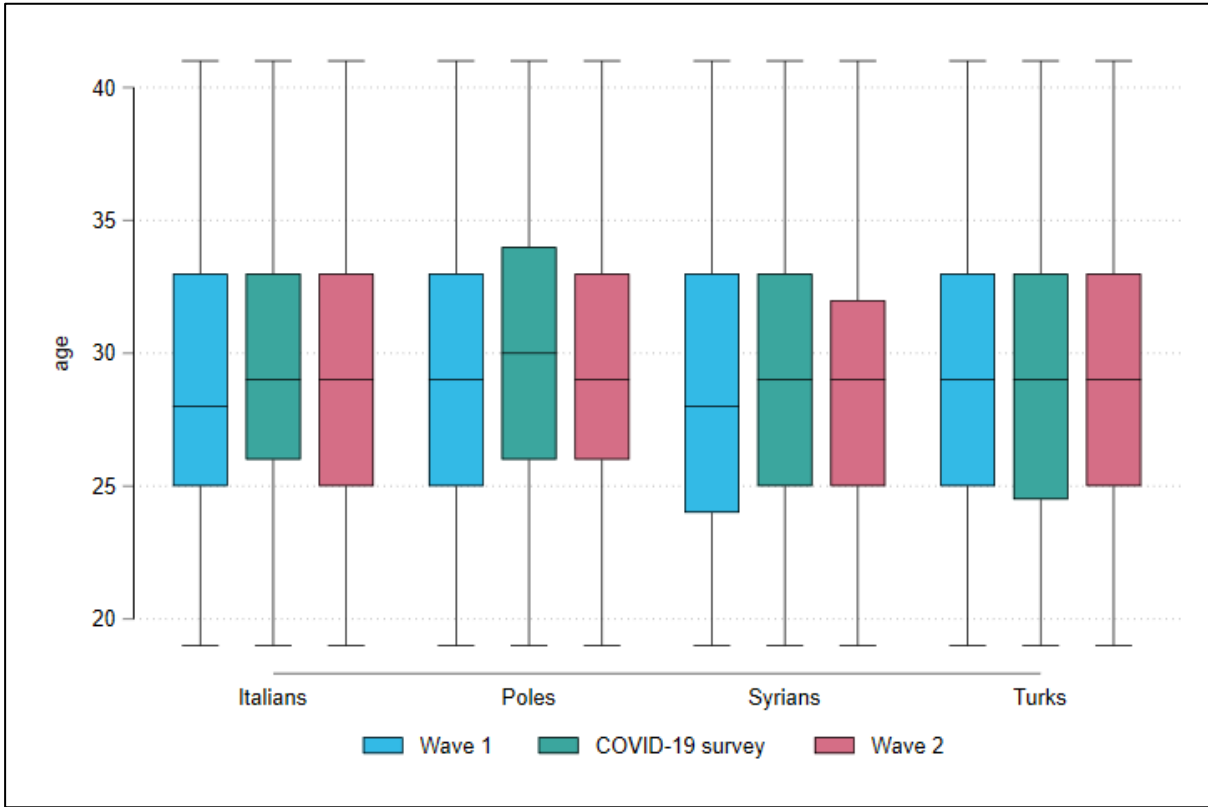
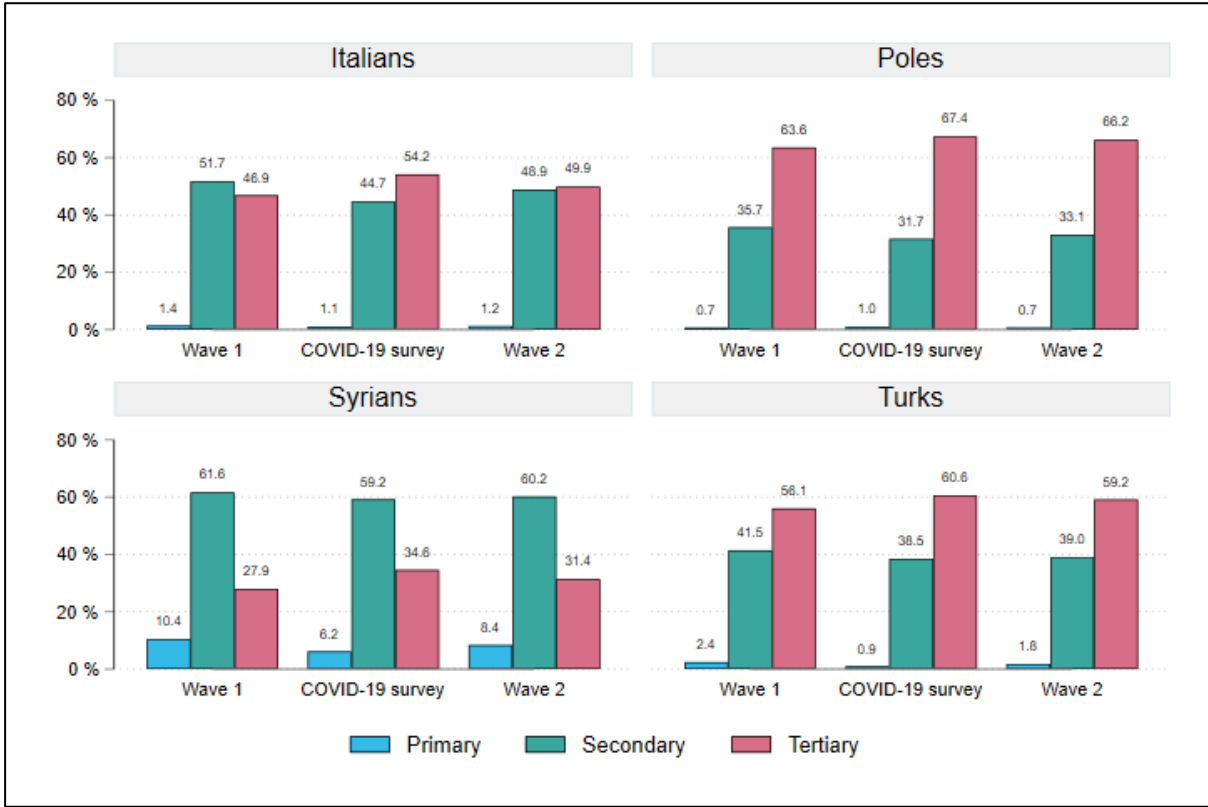


Figure 12. Distribution of educational attainment across the ENTRA survey waves (in percent)



6.3 Panel attrition

Using logistic regression models, we now examine the associations between unit nonresponse and various background characteristics for the COVID-19 survey (Table 10) and the second panel wave (Table 11).

Table 10 shows that male respondents were less likely than females to take part in the survey, particularly among Italians and Poles. Age was largely irrelevant to unit nonresponse; only younger Poles showed a slightly higher probability of nonresponse in the COVID-19 survey. Moreover, the findings indicate a negative relationship between the duration of stay and non-response among Italians. Notably, panel attrition is strongly associated with respondents’ educational attainment. Target persons with a secondary degree and particularly the very low-educated were more likely to drop out from the panel compared to respondents with a tertiary degree.¹⁴ Among Italians and Syrians, respondents who were unemployed in wave 1 more frequently dropped out from the COVID-19 survey than those who had a job. In the Polish and Turkish subsamples, the main activity of the respondents did not make a difference. Finally, the results indicate selective nonresponse by survey mode. CATI respondents dropped

¹⁴ Among Poles, these associations are less pronounced, and for the category “none/primary education” the table shows a negative coefficient. This result likely is due to the small number of cases present in this category (N=7).

out more frequently than CAWI respondents, particularly among Syrians and Turks. With regard to CAPI, the results are mixed and not statistically significant.

Table 10. Predicting nonresponse in the COVID-19 survey (logistic regression, AME)

	Italians (N=1,091)	Poles (N=1,087)	Syrians (N=1,196)	Turks (N=1,065)	Total (N=4,439)
Female	-0.07 *	-0.10 **	-0.04	-0.03	-0.06 ***
Age	-0.01	-0.01 **	-0.00	0.00	-0.00 *
Duration of stay (in year)	-0.04 **	0.00	0.03	0.00	-0.00
Education (<i>ref. tertiary</i>)					
None/primary	0.14	-0.30 *	0.18 ***	0.25 **	0.19 ***
Secondary	0.11 **	0.03	0.05	0.07 *	0.07 ***
Activity (<i>ref. working</i>)					
Unemployed	0.17 **	0.02	0.12 **	0.02	0.08 **
In Education	0.04	0.04	0.05	-0.01	0.02
Other	-0.07	0.02	0.14 ***	0.01	0.06 *
Modus (<i>ref. CAWI</i>)					
CATI	0.01	0.15	0.12 ***	0.17 ***	0.13 ***
CAPI	-0.06	0.19	0.05	-0.08	0.03

Notes: Cases with missing information excluded; *** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05.

Table 11 presents the results on nonresponse for the second panel wave. Polish females show a higher response rate than Polish males. Respondents' age and the duration of stay do not substantially correlate with dropout in any of the groups under study. Once more, the findings indicate a strong association between education and nonresponse. Respondents with a secondary or primary degree have a significantly higher probability of dropping out from the panel compared to respondents with a tertiary degree. Being unemployed also tends to increase nonresponse in wave 2; yet, the correlation is small and only statistically significant among Syrians. Moreover, CATI respondents are more likely to drop out than CAWI respondents, particularly among Poles and Turks. In the Italian subsample, CAPI respondents were more likely to drop out.

Moving to a different location between surveys contributes to unit nonresponse. If they did not inform the ENTRA team about their change of residence, target persons who returned to their origin country, moved elsewhere abroad, or moved within Germany were difficult to find. To address these patterns, we asked participating wave 2 respondents whether they had moved since the first survey. For target persons who had dropped out in the second wave, we requested information on whether they had moved from the local registration offices (see section 3.3). Consistent with our expectations, new immigrants who had moved abroad less frequently took part in the second panel wave. Among Italians, moving within Germany also contributed significantly to unit nonresponse.

Table 11. Predicting nonresponse in the second panel wave (logistic regression, AME)

	Italians (N=1,091)	Poles (N=1,087)	Syrians (N=1,196)	Turks (N=1,065)	Total (N=4,439)
Female	-0.03	-0.09 **	0.02	-0.03	-0.04 **
Age	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00
Duration of stay (in year)	0.00	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.01
Education (<i>ref. tertiary</i>)					
None/primary	0.11	-0.06	0.20 ***	0.24 *	0.19 ***
Secondary	0.06 *	0.07 *	0.08 *	0.09 **	0.08 ***
Activity (<i>ref. working</i>)					
Unemployed	0.06	0.04	0.10 *	0.05	0.08 ***
In Education	0.00	-0.04	0.02	-0.02	0.01
Other	0.07	0.06 *	0.06	0.01	0.07 **
Modus (<i>ref. CAWI</i>)					
CATI	0.07	0.18 *	0.06	0.10 *	0.09 ***
CAPI	0.20 *	-0.13	-0.03	-0.03	0.01
Moved (<i>ref. not moved</i>)					
Abroad	0.07	0.20 ***		0.10	0.11 ***
Within Germany	0.25 ***	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.06 ***

Notes: Cases with missing information excluded; *** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05.

In sum, the results reveal selective panel attrition in the ENTRA surveys. Whereas selection according to respondents' gender, age, duration of stay, and employment status plays a minor role, attrition regarding educational attainment poses a more serious issue. The population of wave 1, which was already skewed towards the highly educated, became even more selective over the course of the subsequent surveys.

7 SCIENTIFIC USE FILE

This final chapter introduces to the scientific use file (SUF) of the ENTRA data (Diehl et al. 2024). The SUF data and further documentation (e.g., questionnaires) are available at the GESIS research data repository ("Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences"; <http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.14014>). The data were processed using the statistical software Stata (Version 17).

Sample population and case numbers

For the first panel wave and the additional COVID-19 survey, the SUF data comprise all cases of the respective net samples. This corresponds to N=4,448 (Wave 1) and N=1,926 (COVID-19 survey) respondents who completed the respective survey.

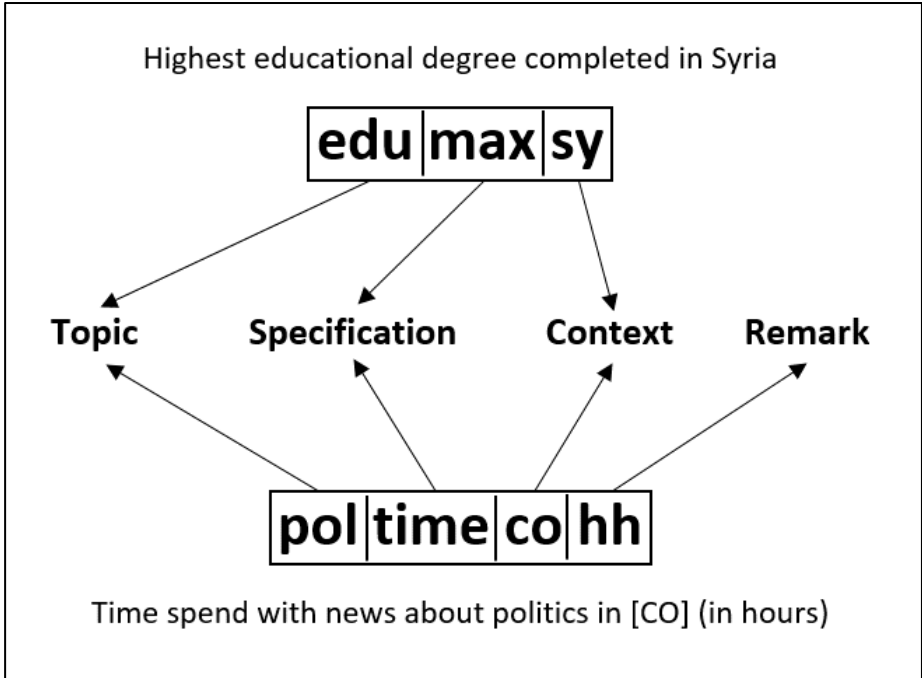
The data of the second panel wave also contain information on target persons who could not be reached, and regarding whom we turned to the local registry offices to ask whether their

addresses had changed. This additional information can be used to analyze (r)emigration and relocations within Germany. Cases who did not participate in the second survey wave are tagged correspondingly in the SUF data (.x: “not reached for w2”). Moreover, the data include respondents who moved abroad and therefore only completed the short version of the questionnaire, which focused on the reasons for leaving Germany (tagged as .r: “living abroad”). In total, the SUF data of the second panel wave comprise N=4,046 cases, of which N=680 could not be reached and N=240 took the short survey. For N=3,126 cases, full information is available.

Naming conventions

The variables in the SUF data are labeled according to the labeling presented in the questionnaire documentation. Variable labels consist of an abridged version of the question or item content, and value labels portray the answer categories. The rationale behind the naming conventions is illustrated in Figure 13. The first two segments of the name represent the topic and the specification of the item. The third segment indicates whether the item refers to a specific context or group. The last segments of the abbreviation are optional and provide further details or remarks if necessary.

Figure 13. Variable naming convention in the scientific use file data



Coding of open answers

Open answers were translated and assigned to answer categories where possible. Due to data security reasons, open answers are excluded from the SUF. Information on numbers, durations, and dates that were provided as open answers were harmonized to some degree. For

example, if respondents reported working 35-40 hours per week, this information was re-coded into a continuous value (37.5 hours). Answers that could not be classified or transformed in a plausible way, were set to missing. In the SUF data, the harmonized versions of such variables carry the suffix “_h” at the end of the variable name.

Generated variables on occupational status, educational attainment, and regional origin

Open answers on respondents’ occupations were converted into established classifications, including the “German Classification of Occupations 2010” (KldB 2010), the “International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008” (ISCO-08), the “Erikson-Goldthorpe-Portocarero Class Scheme” (EGP), the “International Socio-Economic Index of Occupational Status 2008” (ISEI-08), and the “Standard International Occupational Prestige Scale 2008” (SIOPS-08). Moreover, the highest educational degree completed was coded according to the “International Standard Classification of Education” (ISCED 1997 and 2011). The regions of origin were classified according to the “nomenclature of territorial units for statistics” (NUTS) levels 2 and 3.

Missing values

The SUF data identifies various types of missing values. Table 12 shows the scheme according to which missing values were coded. The first two categories, “don’t know” (.a) and “refuse to answer” (.b), correspond to the item nonresponse options implemented in the questionnaires. Questions that were not included in the corresponding wave are marked accordingly (.d). Filter missings (.f) indicate that the question was automatically filtered because the item did not apply to a respondent or subsample. On rare occasions, some questions were not asked by mistake (.m), for example, due to technical issues. In the data of the second panel wave, two additional missing codes were introduced to distinguish between special types of filter missings: respondents who moved abroad and only completed the short version of the questionnaire (.r), and target persons who did not participate in wave 2 and for whom only information on their place of residence – requested from the local registration offices – is available (.x). In a few cases, the missing code “invalid answer” (.z) was used to indicate that an open answer was available, but that it could not be coded correctly. For example, some respondents provided unspecific information on their job, based on which it was not possible to classify the occupation according to ISCO. Missing values that could not be assigned to any of the seven categories are considered unspecific item nonresponses (i.e., system missing “.”). This assignment was necessary, for instance, when respondents accidentally skipped a question or did not provide a meaningful open answer.

Table 12. *Types of missing values*

Code	Missing value
.a	Don't know
.b	Refuse to answer
.d	Question not included in wave
.f	Filter missing
.m	Question not asked by mistake
.r	Living abroad
.x	Not reached for w2
.z	invalid answer
.	Unspecific item nonresponse (system missing)
-20/-50/-55/-95	Item specific exceptions

Additional variables and supplementary data

The SUF contains additional information that was gathered during data collection, including the dates and the durations of the interviews, the survey mode, the recruitment batch in wave 1, and the place of residence of wave 2 non-participants.

Moreover, the SUF includes a variable indicating the duration of stay in Germany. As part of the quality control strategy, in each wave respondents were asked when they first arrived in Germany. Answers to this query varied slightly between the survey waves, which occasionally led to inconsistencies in the data. Based on additional information from the screening, an auxiliary variable with adjusted values was generated and added to the SUF.

Furthermore, we used the *microm* database (microm 2022) to add information on regional contexts to the SUF data. For wave 1 and wave 2, the SUF includes information on the neighborhood's ethnic and educational composition, as well as on the unemployment rates present at different regional levels (i.e., street segment, postcode area 8 – sub-regional units comprising about 500 households, postal code areas, and municipality).

Some sections of the questionnaires were designed for internal usage only, such as the tracking module, respondent/interviewer remarks, and the interviewer questionnaire. These data are not included in the SUF. However, users who want to use this kind of information in their research can apply for access to this data.

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APPENDIX

A.1 Invitation letter – wave 1

Einladung zur Teilnahme am Forschungsprojekt „Aktuelle Zuzugsprozesse und frühe Integrationsverläufe“

Sehr geehrte Frau/Sehr geehrter Herr <Nachname>,

die Universitäten Konstanz, Bamberg und Göttingen befragen im Rahmen eines Forschungsprojekts Personen, die seit kurzem in Deutschland leben. Im ENTRA-Projekt wollen wir mehr über Ihre Bedürfnisse und Erfahrungen in den ersten Monaten und Jahren nach dem Umzug nach Deutschland erfahren. Wir laden Sie daher ein, uns in einem Interview davon zu berichten.

Das Interview wird auf <Sprache> durchgeführt. Um Sie für Ihren Arbeits- und Zeitaufwand zu entschädigen erhalten Sie als Dank für die vollständige Durchführung eines Interviews einen Gutschein im Wert von <25/50> €.

Möchten Sie an einem solchen Interview teilnehmen? Dann melden Sie sich bitte bei uns damit wir klären können, ob sie für ein Interview in Frage kommen (z.B. aufgrund Ihres Alters).

Dies können Sie entweder selbst online auf unserer Homepage machen und dann auch gleich das Interview durchführen.

Rufen Sie hierzu einfach die nachfolgende Adresse auf und geben Sie Ihren Code ein.

Homepage: <webpage>

Code: <code>

Sie möchten uns lieber postalisch kontaktieren? Dann füllen Sie bitte den beiliegenden Antwortbrief vollständig aus und schicken ihn kostenlos an uns zurück.

Wir melden uns dann bei Ihnen, wenn Sie für ein Interview in Frage kommen. Dann haben Sie drei verschiedene Möglichkeiten, das Interview durchzuführen:

- ☑ Online-Interview: Sie können direkt über das Internet auf den Fragebogen zugreifen und das Interview durchführen.
- ☎ Interview per Telefon: Wir werden Sie telefonisch kontaktieren, um mit Ihnen einen Termin zu vereinbaren.
- 👤 Persönliches Interview: Wir werden Sie kontaktieren, um mit Ihnen einen Termin für ein persönliches Treffen zu vereinbaren.

Falls Sie sich fragen, wie wir an Ihre Adresse gekommen sind: Diese wurde zufällig aus dem Einwohnermelderegister ausgewählt. Dies ist für Universitäten zu Forschungszwecken möglich. Die Teilnahme an der Studie ist natürlich freiwillig. Ihre Angaben werden streng vertraulich behandelt. Ihre persönlichen Informationen werden nicht mit Ihren Antworten verknüpft oder weitergegeben und mit Abschluss des Forschungsprojekts zum <datum1> unwiderruflich gelöscht. Bei Nicht-Teilnahme werden Ihre Kontaktdaten spätestens zum <datum2> gelöscht. Die Daten werden ausschließlich für wissenschaftliche Zwecke verwendet. Nähere Informationen dazu finden Sie auch in den beigelegten Datenschutzhinweisen.

Falls Sie vorab Fragen haben, freuen wir uns über eine Nachricht von Ihnen. Informationen zu unserem Projekt finden Sie auch im Internet unter www.entra-study.de, oder Sie kontaktieren uns unter entra@uni-konstanz.de.

Wir würden uns über Ihre Teilnahme sehr freuen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig

A.2 Response form (attached to invitation letter and second reminder of wave 1)

Ab hier ausfüllen und nur diese Seite an uns zurücksenden

Wie möchten Sie an der Befragung teilnehmen?

- Online-Interview Persönliches Interview
 Interview per Telefon Ich möchte gar nicht teilnehmen

Von welchem Anbieter möchten Sie den Gutschein im Wert von <25/50> € erhalten?

- dm-drogerie markt Rossmann Drogeriemarkt
 Saturn Media Markt
 Amazon

Bitte machen Sie noch folgende Angaben zu Ihrer Person:

Alter: _____ Jahre

Geschlecht: Weiblich
 Männlich

Seit wann leben Sie in Deutschland? _____ (Monat) _____ (Jahr)

In welchem Land sind Sie geboren? <CO>
 Deutschland
 anderes, und zwar: _____

Welche Staatsbürgerschaft(en) besitzen Sie: <co>
 deutsch
 andere, und zwar: _____

Haben Sie einen Hochschulabschluss? (z.B. Bachelor, Master, oder Vergleichbares) ja
 nein

Bitte hinterlassen Sie Ihre Telefonnummer und E-Mail-Adresse, damit wir mit Ihnen Kontakt aufnehmen können:

Tel.: _____
E-Mail: _____

Bitte schicken Sie diese Seite in dem beiliegenden Rücksendeumschlag bis zum <deadline> an uns zurück. Antworten, die später bei uns eingehen, können leider nicht berücksichtigt werden. Der Versand ist für Sie kostenlos.

A.3 First reminder (wave 1)

Einladung zur Teilnahme am Forschungsprojekt „Aktuelle Zuzugsprozesse und frühe Integrationsverläufe“

Sehr geehrte Frau/Sehr geehrter Herr <Nachname>,

vor einigen Tagen haben Sie von uns eine Einladung zur Teilnahme an einem Interview erhalten. Wir interessieren uns für die Lebenssituation von Personen, die erst seit kurzem in Deutschland leben.

Wir würden uns sehr freuen, wenn Sie diese Gelegenheit nutzen, um uns von Ihren bisherigen Erfahrungen in Deutschland zu berichten. Daher möchten wir Sie gerne noch einmal bitten, an dem Interview teilzunehmen. Hierfür können Sie sich einfach online auf unserer Homepage anmelden, oder Sie füllen den Antwortbrief aus dem ersten Schreiben aus und senden diesen an uns zurück.

Für die Online-Anmeldung können Sie einfach die nachfolgende Adresse aufrufen und Ihren Code eingeben:

Homepage: <webpage>

Code: <code>

Sollten Sie uns zwischenzeitlich bereits geantwortet haben, danken wir Ihnen ganz herzlich - eine weitere Rückmeldung ist in diesem Fall nicht nötig.

Falls Sie vorab Fragen haben, freuen wir uns über eine Nachricht von Ihnen. Informationen zu unserem Projekt finden Sie auch im Internet unter www.entra-study.de, oder Sie kontaktieren uns unter entra@uni-konstanz.de.

Wir möchten uns heute nochmals ganz herzlich für Ihre Bereitschaft bedanken, sich kurz Zeit zu nehmen und unsere Fragen zu beantworten.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig

A.4 Second reminder (wave 1)

Einladung zur Teilnahme am Forschungsprojekt „Aktuelle Zuzugsprozesse und frühe Integrationsverläufe“

Sehr geehrte Frau/ Sehr geehrter Herr <Nachname>,

vor einigen Wochen haben Sie von uns eine Einladung zur Teilnahme am Forschungsprojekt „Aktuelle Zuzugsprozesse und frühe Integrationsverläufe“ erhalten. Wir interessieren uns für die Lebenssituation von Personen, die erst seit kurzem in Deutschland leben.

Leider haben wir bisher keine Antwort von Ihnen erhalten. Nicht nur für die Wissenschaft, auch für die Gesellschaft ist es sehr wichtig, etwas über Ihre Lebenssituation zu erfahren. Daher möchten wir Sie heute nochmals herzlich einladen, an dem Interview teilzunehmen.

Sollten Sie uns zwischenzeitlich bereits geantwortet haben, werden wir Ihre Rückmeldung in den kommenden Tagen bestimmt erhalten. Eine weitere Antwort ist in diesem Fall nicht nötig.

Möchten Sie an einem solchen Interview teilnehmen? Dann melden Sie sich bitte bei uns damit wir klären können, ob sie für ein Interview in Frage kommen (z.B. aufgrund Ihres Alters).

Dies können Sie entweder selbst online auf unserer Homepage machen und dann auch gleich das Interview durchführen.

Rufen Sie hierzu einfach die nachfolgende Adresse auf und geben Sie Ihren Code ein.

Homepage: <webpage>

Code: <code>

Oder Sie füllen den Antwortbrief aus und senden diesen in dem beigelegten Umschlag kostenlos an uns zurück. Wir melden uns dann bei Ihnen, wenn Sie für ein Interview in Frage kommen.

Um Sie für Ihren Arbeits- und Zeitaufwand zu entschädigen erhalten Sie als Dank für die vollständige Durchführung eines Interviews einen Gutschein im Wert von <25/50> €.

Wenn Sie wirklich nicht an unserer Befragung teilnehmen möchten, bitten wir Sie, diese erneute Anfrage zu entschuldigen.

Wir würden uns sehr freuen, wenn Sie sich doch dazu entschließen könnten, unsere Fragen zu beantworten.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig

A.5 Thank-you letter (wave 1)

Ihre Teilnahme am Forschungsprojekt „Aktuelle Zuzugsprozesse und frühe Integrationsverläufe“

Sehr geehrte Frau/Sehr geehrter Herr <Nachname>,

wir freuen uns sehr, dass Sie sich die Zeit genommen haben, an unserer Befragung teilzunehmen. Sie haben damit einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Forschung geleistet.

Als Dank erhalten Sie beiliegend den versprochenen Gutschein im Wert von <25/50> €.

Falls Sie noch Fragen haben, können Sie uns gerne unter entra@uni-konstanz.de kontaktieren. Wir freuen uns über eine Nachricht von Ihnen.

Erste Ergebnisse aus dem Projekt finden Sie in Kürze auf unserer Homepage (www.entra-study.de). Also schauen Sie dort hin und wieder vorbei, wenn Sie sich über den neusten Stand des Projekts informieren wollen.

Falls Sie zugestimmt haben, an einem zweiten Interview teilzunehmen, werden wir Sie in etwa einem Jahr erneut kontaktieren. Das zweite Interview wird deutlich kürzer sein und mit einem Gutschein im Wert von 20 € vergütet werden.

Bitte informieren Sie uns, wenn sich Ihre Kontaktdaten (Adresse, Telefonnummer, E-Mail) ändern, damit wir Sie dann wieder erreichen können. Ihre neuen Kontaktdaten können Sie uns bequem über unsere Homepage mitteilen, oder Sie schreiben uns eine E-Mail. Als Dankeschön erhalten Sie dafür einen zusätzlichen Gutschein im Wert von 10 €. Am besten Sie heben die beigelegte Visitenkarte gut auf, damit Sie bei Bedarf unsere Kontaktinformationen haben.

Wir bedanken uns recht herzlich bei Ihnen und wünschen Ihnen viel Erfolg für die Zukunft.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig

A.6 Invitation letter – COVID-19 survey

Einladung zur Zusatzbefragung zur Coronavirus-Pandemie im Rahmen des ENTRA-Projekts

Sehr geehrte Frau/Sehr geehrter Herr <Vorname> <Nachname>,

wir alle befinden uns durch die Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemie in einer sehr ungewöhnlichen Situation. Wir melden uns heute bei Ihnen, weil wir gerne wissen würden, wie es Ihnen derzeit ergeht und wie sich die Pandemie auf Ihr Leben auswirkt.

Unsere nächste "richtige" Umfrage wird im Herbst stattfinden, aber wir würden uns freuen, wenn Sie spontan ein paar zusätzliche Fragen beantworten. Dies dauert etwa 5 bis 10 Minuten.

Um an der Umfrage teilzunehmen, gehen Sie auf folgende Homepage und melden Sie sich mit Ihrem Code an:

Homepage: <webpage>

Code: <code>

Wir bitten um Verständnis, dass wir aufgrund der aktuellen Situation die Befragung nur online anbieten können. Die Teilnahme ist bis zum <datum> möglich.

Damit wir Sie in Zukunft besser erreichen können, wären wir Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie uns Ihre aktuelle E-Mail-Adresse mitteilen könnten. Für eine solche Mitteilung erhalten Sie als Dank einen Gutschein in Höhe von 10 €. Dies können Sie einfach über unsere Homepage machen www.entra-study.com/email oder Sie schicken uns eine E-Mail mit Ihrem Code an entra@uni-konstanz.de.

Wir danken Ihnen ganz herzlich für Ihre Unterstützung und wünschen Ihnen alles Gute. Bleiben Sie gesund.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig

A.7 Invitation letter – wave 2

Einladung zur Teilnahme am Forschungsprojekt „Aktuelle Zuzugsprozesse und frühe Integrationsverläufe“ (ENTRA)

Sehr geehrte Frau/Sehr geehrter Herr <Vorname> <Nachname>,

wir möchten Sie heute gerne zu einer weiteren Befragung im Rahmen des ENTRA-Projekts einladen. Vergangenes Jahr haben Sie uns bereits aus Ihrem Leben berichtet. Viele von Ihnen haben uns zudem im Rahmen einer kurzen Zwischenbefragung mitgeteilt, wie es ihnen zu Beginn der Corona-Pandemie ergangen ist. Für beides möchten wir Ihnen herzlich danken und Sie gleichzeitig bitten, auch an der aktuellen Befragung teilzunehmen und uns zu berichten, wie sie mittlerweile verschiedene Aspekte ihres Alltags bewerten. Sollten Sie mittlerweile in einem anderen Land leben, würden Sie uns sehr helfen, wenn Sie trotzdem kurz an der Umfrage teilnehmen würden.

Wie schon beim letzten Mal wird das Interview auf <Sprache> durchgeführt. Diese kürzere Befragung dauert etwa 20 Minuten. Für die vollständige Durchführung erhalten Sie als Dank einen **Gutschein im Wert von 20 €**.

Um sicherzustellen, dass unsere Einladung Sie auch erreicht, haben wir Ihnen diese Einladung ebenfalls per E-Mail geschickt. Für aussagekräftige Ergebnisse ist es wichtig, dass Sie persönlich, und nicht eine andere Person aus Ihrem Haushalt, an unserer Befragung teilnehmen.

[Version CAWI:]

Um an der Umfrage teilzunehmen, gehen Sie auf folgende Homepage und melden Sie sich mit Ihrem Code an:

Homepage: <webpage>

Code: <code>

[Version CATI:]

Um an der Umfrage teilzunehmen, müssen Sie nichts weiter tun. Einer unserer Interviewer wird sich in den kommenden Wochen telefonisch bei Ihnen melden.

[Version CAPI:]

Leider können wir aufgrund der aktuellen Corona-Situation keine persönlichen Interviews durchführen. Wir bieten Ihnen aber gerne an, Sie online per Video-Anruf oder einfach per Telefon zu interviewen. Um an der Umfrage teilzunehmen, müssen Sie nichts weiter tun. Einer unserer Interviewer wird sich in den kommenden Wochen telefonisch bei Ihnen melden.

Zur Erinnerung: Die Universitäten Konstanz, Bamberg und Göttingen befragen im Rahmen eines Forschungsprojekts Personen, die seit kurzem in Deutschland leben. Wir interessieren uns dafür welche Erfahrungen Sie über die Zeit in Deutschland machen. Ihre Adresse wurde zufällig aus dem Einwohnermelderegister ausgewählt. Diejenigen, die an der ersten Befragung teilgenommen haben, werden nun erneut angeschrieben. Die Teilnahme an der Studie ist natürlich weiterhin absolut **freiwillig**. Ihre Angaben werden streng vertraulich behandelt. Ihre persönlichen Informationen werden nicht mit Ihren Antworten verknüpft oder weitergegeben und mit Abschluss des Forschungsprojekts zum <datum> unwiderruflich gelöscht. Die Daten werden ausschließlich für wissenschaftliche Zwecke verwendet. Nähere Informationen dazu finden Sie auch in den beigelegten Datenschutzhinweisen.

Falls Sie vorab Fragen haben, freuen wir uns über eine Nachricht von Ihnen. Informationen zu unserem Projekt finden Sie auch im Internet unter www.entra-study.de, oder Sie kontaktieren uns unter entra@uni-konstanz.de.

Wir würden uns über Ihre Teilnahme sehr freuen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig