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► To cite this version:

Marion Le Texier, Claude Grasland, France Guérin-Pace, Bénédicte Garnier. Monitoring the distribution of euro coins across borders (2002–2010): A dataset on the contents of 22,500 European citizens' wallet. *Data in Brief*, 2021, 36, pp.107081. 10.1016/j.dib.2021.107081 . hal-03232625

HAL Id: hal-03232625

<https://hal.science/hal-03232625>

Submitted on 21 May 2021

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Data Article

Monitoring the distribution of euro coins across borders (2002–2010): A dataset on the contents of 22,500 European citizens' wallet



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 16 February 2021

Revised 8 April 2021

Accepted 15 April 2021

Available online 22 April 2021

Keywords:

Euro

Coins

Survey

Circulation

Spatial diffusion

Cross-border

ABSTRACT

The Euro Spatial Diffusion Observatory (ESDO) database records face-to-face questionnaire surveys conducted between March 2002 and December 2011 in France, in December 2003 in Belgium and in December 2005 in Germany. The data provides information on the coins contained in the respondents' wallets at the time of the survey, classified by country of origin and value. A series of control variables provide information on the socioeconomic profile of the respondents and the location of their place of residence at the NUTS 3 level. In total, more than 22,500 people opened their wallets and about 300,000 coins were registered allowing the tracking of euro coins circulation from their country of introduction on January 1, 2002 (or later for countries that joined the euro zone afterwards) to their place of observation at the time of the survey.

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Specifications Table

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Subject | Geography |
| Specific subject area | The circulation of euro coins within and across state borders results from the cumulative effects of many small cash transactions, while direct redistribution between banks is very local due to high transport costs (volume and weight of coins, security issues). Therefore the successive photographs of the spatial distribution of euro coins by country of issue provide information on the geographical and social factors of European integration at the scale of its residents. |
| Type of data | CSV dataframes (on per country of survey) |
| How data were acquired | The founding researchers of the ESDO entrusted the realization of the wallet surveys to the private polling institute Lavalie (I.S.L.). This institute specialized in quantitative studies for many sectors of activity (media, finance, transport, health, etc.) conducts Omnibus surveys among a representative sample of the French (resp. German and Belgian) population twice a month. A copy of the survey questionnaires is provided, along with the web link to its online access. |
| Data format | Raw data |
| Parameters for data collection | Each survey involved a sample of 2000 persons (with the exception of the French March 2002 and Belgian December 2003 surveys which investigated 1000 persons only) representative of the population at NUTS 1 level in France and Nielsen [1] level in Belgium and Germany. Representativeness was drawn at random from the population over 18 years of age based on habitat type, the socio-professional category of the head of household and the sex and age of the interviewee. |
| Description of data collection | All the interviews, lasting 45 min, were conducted face-to-face, at home, by ISL network interviewers, using a CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviews) system. The open-ended questions as well as the occupation questions were proofread, checked and post-coded by ISL's proofreading and coding service. Only a part of the Omnibus surveys was dedicated to the content of the respondents' wallets, and participation in this part of the survey was left to the respondents' discretion. |
| Data source location | Belgium, France and Germany (the information on residential location is given at NUTS 3 level). |
| Data accessibility | Repository name: Mendeley Data Direct URL to data: https://doi.org/10.17632/f257j67ym6.1 Data, metadata, and survey files are all available at the Mendeley Data site. |

Value of the Data

- As euro coins circulate mainly thanks to the movement of people, the observation of a coin issued in another country of the euro zone is evidence of a network of relations between its place of issue and its place of observation.
- Socioeconomic and geographic factors explaining the presence (resp. absence) of foreign euro coins in a purse inform on European integration at individual and NUTS 3 levels.
- The dynamics of the coins mixing shed light on the processes of spatiotemporal diffusion carried out by human contacts in Europe.
- The ESDO data may be used as a general proxy of cross-border mobility between European countries.

1. Data Description

Euro bills and coins were put into circulation on January 1, 2002, in the following twelve countries: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Finland, i.e. in twelve of the then fifteen Member States of the European Union (EU). Seven new banknotes and eight new coins were introduced into the European money market. Each euro coin shows on one side its denomination value (1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, 1 euro and 2 euros) and on the opposite side a symbol representing its country of issue. At the launch of the Euro banknotes and coins, the value of

Table 1

Key figures on ESDO surveys (March 2002–December 2011).

| Survey time | Survey location | Initial number of respondents | Number of wallets opened | Number of coins registered | Share of foreign coins (in %) |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| March 2002 | France | 1002 | 707 | 9831 | 4,73 |
| June 2002 | France | 2012 | 1480 | 20,737 | 5,91 |
| September 2002 | France | 2057 | 1374 | 19,164 | 9,18 |
| January 2003 | France | 2042 | 1479 | 18,342 | 10,88 |
| June 2003 | France | 1998 | 1284 | 18,284 | 11,08 |
| September 2003 | France | 1978 | 1408 | 18,009 | 14,08 |
| December 2003 | France | 2013 | 1535 | 20,455 | 13,77 |
| December 2003 | Belgium | 978 | 658 | 9501 | 26,56 |
| June 2004 | France | 1999 | 1480 | 18,463 | 17,18 |
| September 2004 | France | 1988 | 1423 | 18,424 | 19,45 |
| December 2004 | France | 2012 | 1670 | 21,820 | 18,68 |
| June 2005 | France | 2003 | 1395 | 18,196 | 20,10 |
| December 2005 | France | 1989 | 1575 | 19,854 | 23,66 |
| December 2005 | Germany | 1949 | 1673 | 28,202 | 13,77 |
| June 2006 | France | 1989 | 1304 | 16,037 | 25,71 |
| January 2007 | France | 2000 | 1460 | 18,661 | 26,59 |
| October 2008 | France | 2010 | 1538 | 18,173 | 29,65 |
| December 2011 | France | 1906 | 1389 | 17,043 | 33,63 |

all the coins put into circulation amounted to 12 billion euros, distributed irregularly among the Member States according to the number of inhabitants and the different national payment practices. On average, this represented 134 coins per inhabitant of the euro area with a value of 43 euros per person (Commission of the European Communities 2003). Since then, seven other countries have adopted the euro: Slovenia on January 1, 2007, Cyprus and Malta on January 1, 2008, Slovakia on January 1, 2009, Estonia in January 2011, Latvia in January 2014 and Lithuania in January 2015.

Conveyed by individuals in the course of their daily, professional, tourist or other travels, the European currency is an indicator of the movements and contacts that take place between countries of Europe [2–7]. In order to monitor the mix of euro coins, a series of Omnibus-type surveys was carried out in France, Belgium and Germany from the very beginning of single currency to its 10th anniversary. In total, more than 20,000 wallets and nearly 300,000 coins were observed between March 2002 and December 2011 (Table 1).

Thanks to the set of socioeconomic and geographical variables (see Tables 2–4 for a detailed description of the questions and response modalities in each of the survey country) characterizing the respondent/money-keeper as well as every euro coins found in his/her wallet at the time of the survey, the ESDO dataset provides answers to questions as varied as: “have the coins completely mixed after ten years?”, “are the same proportions of coins from each country of origin to be found everywhere?”, “how, and at what speed, did the mixing take place?”, “do certain profiles of individuals and/or territories possess coins of certain origins more frequently than others?”, etc.

2. Experimental Design, Materials and Methods

ESDO data comes from a series of Omnibus surveys conducted face to face, at home, with a CAPI system. All the open-ended questions and the questions of professions have been proofread, checked and post-codified by I.S.L.’s proofreading - codification service.

Each survey wave was conducted with a sample of 2000 individuals (1000 for the French survey of March 2002 and the Belgian survey of December 2003) representative of the country’s population, aged 18 years and older (with the exception of the Belgian survey which also includes respondents aged 17). The sample is constructed from a matrix ZEAT/LAND region X

Table 2

Presentation of French surveys variables.

| Code | Description |
|------------|---|
| SURVEY | Month and year of the survey |
| SEX | 1) Man 2) Woman |
| AGE | Age in years |
| AGGL_FR_5 | Place of residence type of agglomeration in 5 categories: 1) Rural 2) from 2000 to 20,000 inhabitants 3) from 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants 4) >100,000 inhabitants 5) Paris agglomeration |
| NUTS3 | Place of residence location according to the European Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics at level 3 |
| NPF5 | Size of the household in 5 categories: 1) 1 person 2) 2 persons 3) 3 persons 4) 4 persons 5) 5 persons and more |
| E15 | Number of children under age 15 in 6 categories: 0) none 1) 1 child 2) 2 children 3) 3 children 4) 4 children 5) 5 children and more |
| PRO6_FR | Profession in 6 categories: 1) Farmer 2) Craftsman - seller 3) Manager 4) Intermediate profession, employee 5) Worker 6) Inactive |
| PRO6_FR_CF | Profession of the head of the family, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 6 categories: 1) Farmer 2) Craftsman - seller 3) Manager 4) Intermediate profession, employee 5) Worker 6) Inactive |
| SIT_SAL | Current or past salary situation in 2 categories: 1) On his/her account 2) Employment |
| SAL | Employer type in 3 categories: 1) state or local community 2) public company 3) private company |
| TPS_FR | Working time: 1) Full time 2) Part-time |
| SIT_CF | Current or past salary status of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 2 categories: 1) On his/her account 2) Employment |
| SAL_CF | Employer type of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 3 categories: 1) state or local community 2) public company 3) private company |
| TPS_FR_CF | Working time of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent: 1) Full time 2) Part-time |
| COUPLE | Lives as a couple: 1) Yes 2) No |
| STM | Marital status in 3 categories: 1) Married or living in a marriage 2) Single 3) Widowed, divorced, separated |
| DIPLIN_FR | Highest diploma obtained according to the following response modalities: 1) Primary school degree (CEP) 2) Middle school national degree (BEPC) 3) certificate of professional aptitude (CAP) and Professional studies diploma (BEP) 4) High-school diploma (Baccalauréat) 5) 2-years university diploma 6) Bachelor/Master degree 7) No diploma 8) Refuse to answer |
| HAB_TYP | Habitat type according in 6 categories: 1) A farm 2) A detached house without garden 3) A detached house with garden 4) An apartment HLM (low rent housing) or INL (standard rental building) 5) An apartment other than HLM/ILN 6) Other |
| HAB_STAT | Property status in 4 categories: 1) Ownership, including co-owner and accessor 2) tenant 3) Other 4) Refuse to answer |
| REVR_FR | In the first 15 surveys (March 2002 to October 2008), the respondent's average gross income is categorized according to the following thresholds: 1) < 609 EUROS 2) 610–914 EUROS 3) 915–1219 EUROS 4) 1220–1524 EUROS 5) 1525–1904 EUROS 6) 1905–2289 EUROS 7) 2290–3049 EUROS 8) 3050–3809 EUROS 9) 3810–6099 EUROS 10) > 6099 EUROS 11) Refuse to answer the question 12) NA |
| | Answer modalities for the December 2011 survey: 1) < 499 EUROS 2) 500–749 EUROS 3) 750–999 EUROS 4) 1000–1499 EUROS 5) 1500–1999 EUROS 6) 2000–2499 EUROS 7) 2500–2999 EUROS 8) 3000–3499 EUROS 9) 3500–4499 EUROS 10) 4500–5999 EUROS 11) 6000–7499 EUROS 12) > 7500 EUROS 13) NA 14) Refuse to answer the question |
| Weight | Weighting variable constructed by ISL |
| QFRA_1c | Number of 01 cent coins minted in France contained in the wallet |
| QFRA_2c | Number of 02 cents coins minted in France contained in the wallet |
| ... | ... |
| QSLVE_1e | Number of 1 euro coins minted in Slovenia contained in the wallet |
| QSLVE_2e | Number of 2 euros coins minted in Slovenia contained in the wallet |

Type of habitat. In urban areas, the interviews are divided between the main commune of the agglomeration and the communes of the periphery, in proportion to their respective populations. A priori representativeness of the sample is ensured by the use of quotas on the following variables: socio-professional category of the head of household, age of the interviewee, sex of the interviewee, woman respondent/wife activity.

Table 3

Presentation of the Belgium survey variables.

| | |
|---------|---|
| ZEAT | Nielsen region of residence in 5 categories: 1) Nielsen I (North West), 2) Nielsen II (North East), 3) Nielsen III (centre), 4) Nielsen IV (South West), 5) Nielsen V (South East) |
| NUTS3 | Place of residence location according to the European Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics at level 3 |
| HAB4 | Place of residence type of agglomeration in 4 categories: 1) big cities, 2) urban areas, 3) intermediary areas, 4) rural areas |
| SEX | 1) Man 2) Woman |
| AGE | Age in years |
| LIEN | The respondent is the head of the family: 1) Yes, 2) No |
| NPFQ | Size of the household in 9 categories: 1) 1 person 2) 2 persons 3) 3 persons 4) 4 persons 5) 5 persons, 6) 6 persons, 7) 7 persons, 8) 8 persons, 9) 9 persons and more |
| RS4 | Professional status of the respondent in 2 categories: 1) On his/her account 2) Employment |
| RS14 | Professional status of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 2 categories: 1) On his/her account 2) Employment |
| RS20 | Lives as a couple: 1) Yes 2) No |
| RS21 | Marital status in 3 categories: 1) Married or living in a marriage 2) Single 3) Widowed, divorced, separated |
| RS22 | Highest diploma obtained according to the following response modalities: 1) Primary (Primaire), 2) Lower secondary degree (general, technological or artistic), 3) Higher secondary degreeaire (general, technological or artistic), 4) Lower professional secondary degree, 5) Higher professional secondary degree, 6) Non-university higher education, 7) University degree |
| RS22B | Highest diploma obtained by the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, according to the following response modalities: 1) Primary (Primaire), 2) Lower secondary degree (general, technological or artistic), 3) Higher secondary degreeaire (general, technological or artistic), 4) Lower professional secondary degree, 5) Higher professional secondary degree, 6) Non-university higher education, 7) University degree |
| RS30 | The respondent is the purchasing manager in the household: 1) Yes, 2) No |
| PCSI1 | Profession of the respondent in 20 categories: 1) small farmer (less than 15 ha), 2) large farmer (15 ha or more), 3) craftsman, trader with 5 or less employees, 4) industrialist, large trader with 6 or more employees, 5) liberal profession or requiring qualification (doctor, lawyer, chartered accountant, ...), 6) member of the general management, senior executive (director, administrator, ...) responsible for 5 or fewer employees, 7) member of the general management, senior manager (director, administrator, ...) responsible for 6 to 10 employees, 8) member of the general management, senior manager (director, administrator, ...) in charge of 11 or more employees, 9) middle management not part of the general management, in charge of 5 or less employees, 10) middle management not part of the general management, in charge of 6 or more employees, 11) other, mainly clerical work, 12) other, not clerical work (nurse, teacher, policeman, ...), 13) skilled worker, foreman, 14) unskilled worker, laborer, 15) disabled, 16) pensioner/retired, 17) student, 18) housewife, 19) unemployed, 20) annuitant |
| PCSC2 | Profession of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 20 categories: 1) small farmer (less than 15 ha), 2) large farmer (15 ha or more), 3) craftsman, trader with 5 or less employees, 4) industrialist, large trader with 6 or more employees, 5) liberal profession or requiring qualification (doctor, lawyer, chartered accountant, ...), 6) member of the general management, senior executive (director, administrator, ...) responsible for 5 or fewer employees, 7) member of the general management, senior manager (director, administrator, ...) responsible for 6 to 10 employees, 8) member of the general management, senior manager (director, administrator, ...) in charge of 11 or more employees, 9) middle management not part of the general management, in charge of 5 or less employees, 10) middle management not part of the general management, in charge of 6 or more employees, 11) other, mainly clerical work, 12) other, not clerical work (nurse, teacher, policeman, ...), 13) skilled worker, foreman, 14) unskilled worker, laborer, 15) disabled, 16) pensioner/retired, 17) student, 18) housewife, 19) unemployed, 20) annuitant |
| E15 | Children under age 15: 1) Yes, 2) No |
| Weight | Weighting variable constructed by ISL |
| QFRA_1c | Number of 01 cent coins minted in France contained in the wallet |
| QFRA_2c | Number of 02 cents coins minted in France contained in the wallet |
| ... | ... |
| QPOR_1e | Number of 1 euro coins minted in Portugal contained in the wallet |
| QPOR_2e | Number of 2 euros coins minted in Portugal contained in the wallet |

Table 4

Presentation of the German survey variables.

| | |
|---------|--|
| SEXE | 1) Man 2) Woman |
| AGQ | Age in years |
| NPF5 | Size of the household in 5 categories: 1) 1 person 2) 2 persons 3) 3 persons 4) 4 persons 5) 5 persons and more |
| g10 | City of residence size in 10 categories: 0) up to 1.999 inhabitants 1) 2.000 up to 2.999 inhabitants 2) 3.000 up to 4.999 inhabitants 3) 5.000 up to 9.999 inhabitants 4) 10.000 up to 19.999 inhabitants 5) 20.000 up to 49.999 inhabitants 6) 50.000 up to 99.999 inhabitants 7) 100.000 up to 199.999 inhabitants 8) 200.000 up to 499.999 inhabitants 9) 500.000 inhabitants or more |
| LAND | Region (17 Länder): 1) Schleswig-Holstein 2) Hamburg 3) Bremen 4) Berlin (West) 5) Lower Saxony 6) North-Rhine-Westphalia 7) Hessen 8) Rhineland-Palatinate 9) Saarland 10) Baden-Württemberg 11) Bavaria 12) Mecklenburg-Lower-Pomerania 13) Saxony-Anhalt 14) Brandenburg 15) Thuringia 16) Saxony 17) Berlin (East) |
| N3_03 | Location of residence place according to the Eurostat NUTS 3 (2003) nomenclature |
| g13 | Marital status in 4 categories: 1) single 2) living together without marriage certificate 3) married 4) divorced/widowed/living separated |
| Penf | Children in household in 2 categories: 1) Yes 2) No |
| g18 | The respondent is the purchasing manager in the household: 1) Yes 2) No |
| g6 | The respondent is the head of the household: 1) Yes 2) No |
| g23 | Highest diploma obtained according to the following response modalities: 1) Pre-primary 2) Primary 3) Secondary 4) Higher 5) University degree 9) NA |
| g25 | Highest diploma obtained by the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, according to the following response modalities: 1) Pre-primary 2) Primary 3) Secondary 4) Higher 5) University degree 9) NA |
| g3 | Working status of the respondent in 3 categories: 1) Yes, full-time 2) Yes, part-time 3) No |
| g3c | Working status of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 3 categories: 1) Yes, full-time 2) Yes, part-time 3) No |
| pcsi11 | Profession of respondent in 11 categories: 1) farmer 2) liberal profession 3) shopkeeper / owner of a firm 4) civil servants / government employees 5) employees (incl. employed management) 6) workers 7) students 8) apprentice / military service 9) housewife 10) retired 11) unemployed |
| Pcsi | Profession of respondent in 6 categories: 1) workers 2) employees (incl. employed management) 3) civil servants / government employees 4) liberal profession / shopkeeper / owner of a firm 5) farmers 6) unemployed |
| ACTI | Profession of respondent in 10 categories: 1) self-employed 2) farmer / fisherman 3) white collar 4) blue collar 5) student 6) housewife 7) retired 8) temporarily not working 9) other profession 10) NA |
| revr | Income of respondent in 12 categories: 1) NA / refused 2) up to 499 € 3) 500 € up to 749 € 4) 750 € up to 999 € 5) 1.000 € up to 1.249 € 6) 1.250 € up to 1.499 € 7) 1.500 € up to 1.999 € 8) 2.000 € up to 2.499 € 9) 2.500 € up to 2.999 € 10) 3.000 € up to 3.499 € 11) 3.500 € up to 3.999 € 12) 4.000 € or more |
| pcsc11 | Profession of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 11 categories: 1) farmer 2) liberal profession 3) shopkeeper / owner of a firm 4) civil servants / government employees 5) employees (incl. employed management) 6) workers 7) students 8) apprentice / military service 9) housewife 10) retired 11) unemployed |
| pcsc | Profession of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 6 categories: 1) workers 2) employees (incl. employed management) 3) civil servants / government employees 4) liberal profession / shopkeeper / owner of a firm 5) farmers 6) unemployed |
| ACTC | Profession of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 10 categories: 1) self-employed 2) farmer / fisherman 3) white collar 4) blue collar 5) student 6) housewife 7) retired 8) temporarily not working 9) other profession 10) NA |
| revh | Income of the head of household, if the head of household is not the respondent, in 12 categories: 1) NA / refused 2) up to 499 € 3) 500 € up to 749 € 4) 750 € up to 999 € 5) 1.000 € up to 1.249 € 6) 1.250 € up to 1.499 € 7) 1.500 € up to 1.999 € 8) 2.000 € up to 2.499 € 9) 2.500 € up to 2.999 € 10) 3.000 € up to 3.499 € 11) 3.500 € up to 3.999 € 12) 4.000 € or more |
| Pip | Weighting variable constructed by ISL |
| QFRA_1c | Number of 01 cent coins minted in France contained in the wallet |
| QFRA_2c | Number of 02 cents coins minted in France contained in the wallet |
| ... | ... |
| QPOR_1e | Number of 1 euro coins minted in Portugal contained in the wallet |
| QPOR_2e | Number of 2 euros coins minted in Portugal contained in the wallet |

A posteriori representativeness of the sample is ensured by an adjustment procedure. The variables used are: ZEAT/LAND region, agglomeration categories, sex of the interviewee socio-professional category of the head of household, number of people in the household, age of the interviewee.

In order to ensure the quality of the information collected, postal checks were carried out by ISL regularly on more than half of the interviews. In addition, targeted telephone checks by interviewers are carried out as part of the more general monitoring of the network of ISL interviewers.

Note that the raw data were recoded to harmonize variable names across surveys. Some variables were also removed from the original file, as they corresponded to parts of the Omnibus survey commissioned by agencies other than the ESDO. Only respondents who agreed to open their wallets and count the euro coins are included in the database.

Ethics Statement

Respondents' participation was completely consensual, anonymous, and voluntary. Informed consent was obtained before conducting the survey.

CRedit Author Statement

Marion Le Texier: Methodology, Writing - Original draft preparation; **Claude Grasland:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing - Reviewing and Editing; **France Guérin-Pace:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing - Reviewing and Editing; **Bénédict Garnier:** Methodology, Writing - Reviewing and Editing.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships which have or could be perceived to have influenced the work reported in this article.

Acknowledgments

The ESDO database was set up in 2002 as part of a large network of financial partners: the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), Université de Paris (former University Paris Diderot), the French Treasury Department, the French Ministry of Tourism and the ACI Systèmes Complexes en SHS.

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