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ELIPSS, a French Internet probability-based panel. 10 years of challenges

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ELIPSS

a French Internet probability-based panel.

10 years of challenges

The **ELIPSS** panel (*Étude Longitudinale par Internet Pour les Sciences Sociales*) is an online survey infrastructure. It allows researchers to collect data leveraging a probability-based panel. The data collected is made available for further re-use.

Set up in 2012, the project has undergone several deployment phases and many changes. In particular, while panellists were initially

equipped with a tablet and an Internet connection to complete the surveys, they are now responding using their own equipment.

Besides the value of the data collected, the 10 years long experience provides an empirical case to address some of the meta-issues of longitudinal studies and surveys (i.e the viability, the quality of the data produced, its comparability, its usefulness for research, ...).

ELIPSS at a glance

The panel

- Probability-based Internet panel recruited through random sampling by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies
- France residents (French-speaking) aged over 18 at the time of recruitment
- More than 2600 panellists as of June 2023

The surveys

- Cross-sectional or longitudinal projects in the humanities and social sciences without thematic restrictions
- Monthly survey, 10 waves per year
 - 9 waves designed by research teams
 - 1 wave for the **ELIPSS** core questionnaire composed by a sociodemographic and a general attitude module
- 20 minutes duration per wave

The service

- Questionnaire design
 - design - programming - testing*
- Fieldwork
 - data collection - survey follow-up and reminders (email, phone, mail)*
- Post-production
 - data cleaning - data matching - data weighting - FAIR documentation & dissemination*

10 years of data production

2012-2019

- National funding as a part of the Dime-SHS Equipex (ANR-10-EQPX-19-01)
- No financial contribution expected from research teams
- Internet access provided to each panellist (touchscreen tablet & 3G/4G subscription)

2020-ONWARD

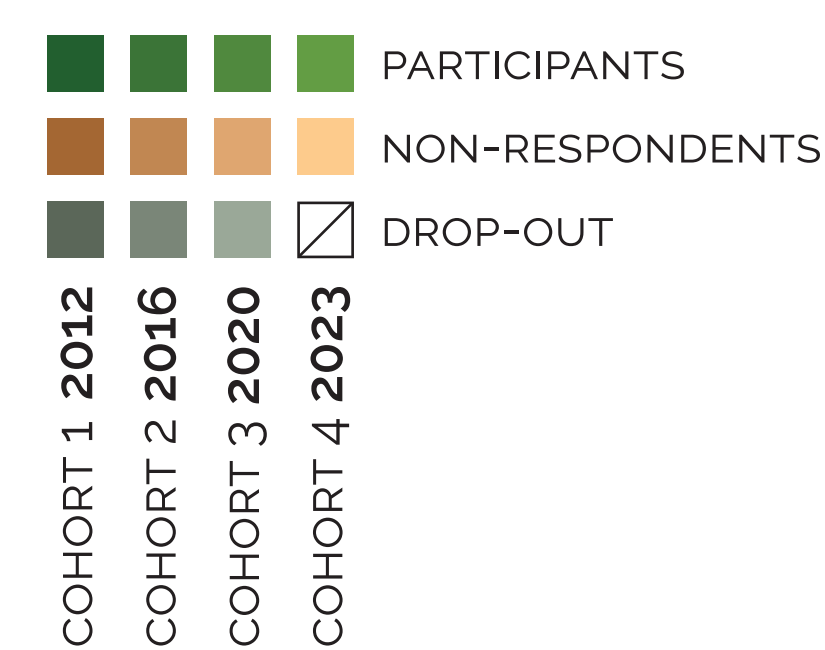
- Self-funding
- Financial contribution from research teams
- Use of personal equipment to complete surveys

KEY FIGURES

- **> 110 SURVEYS**
The latest: ISSP22, Family and Changing Gender Roles V, June 2023
- **≈ 1/3 OF THE 1ST COHORT STILL ACTIVE**
- **> 100 DATASETS AVAILABLE ON [DATA.SCIENCESPO.FR](https://data.sciencespo.fr)**
with wide range of customised data matching
- **> 90 PUBLICATIONS** (>50 articles and 5 books)
ex: DUWEZ, E., MERCKLE, P. (dirs.), 2021, *Un panel français*, Paris, Ined Éditions (Grandes Enquêtes), 352p.

PARTICIPATION & ATTRITION PER SURVEY

For the first survey in 2013, the panel consisted solely of those recruited for the pilot stage (2012). Out of 1012 "active" panellists, 925 individuals completed the questionnaire (top of the chart). At that time, 27 individuals had left the panel (bottom of the chart).



PILOT STAGE 2012-2016

- 1st recruitment: 1039 panellists
- Recruitment mode: mail, phone, face-to-face
- Universe: 18-75, Metropolitan France (excluding Corsica)

ROLL-OUT STAGE 2016-2019

- 1st refreshment sample: 2517 new panellists
- Recruitment mode: face-to-face
- Panel size: ≈ 3300 (September 2016)
- Universe: 18-79, Metropolitan France (excluding Corsica)

REDEFINITION STAGE 2020-2023

- 2nd refreshment sample: 904 new participants
- Recruitment mode: face-to-face | phone, email, mail
- Transitional year (change of conditions, Covid-19) 1400 remaining panellists
- Panel size: ≈ 2300 (January 2021)
- Universe: over 18, Metropolitan France

REDEPLOYMENT STAGE 2023-ONWARD

- 3rd refreshment sample (over-representation of young people): 906 new participants
- Recruitment mode: phone, email, mail
- Panel size: > 2600 (June 2023)
- Universe: over 18, Metropolitan France

The **ELIPSS** team is constantly engaged in reflecting upon and questioning

- **Representativeness and selection biases:** recruitment strategy, impact of attrition, under-representation of certain populations (such as the youngest or the non-educated), inclusion or not of the non-connected, ...
- **Data quality:** satisficing, panel conditioning, inconsistency of responses over time, ...
- **Panel strategy:** incentive effects, impact of the follow-up protocol (particularly telephone calls), ...