

Sampling and recruitment of the MESS Immigrant panel

Sample

The MESS project includes a new special immigrant panel, in addition to the regular LISS panel. It is a partner-project between MESS, Statistics Netherlands and the Department of Cross-cultural psychology of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tilburg University. The project is financed jointly by the three partners. Statistics Netherlands additionally contributes by means of supplying the sample. The objectives of this immigrant project are to study acculturation processes and to gain insight into the methodology of building and maintaining an Internet panel on a probability sample of immigrant groups.

The sample, drawn by Statistics Netherlands from the population register, has been stratified by ethnic groups and weighted by household size. The standard definitions of Statistics Netherlands of first and second generation immigrant are used as well as the standard definitions of Western and non-Western countries (see www.cbs.nl/statline). The primary sampling units are persons, but when a selected person agrees to participate we include, if possible, the household.

The sample includes the four major non-Western immigrant groups in the Netherlands: persons from Moroccan, Turkish, Surinamese and Antillean origin (see Table 1). In addition, it includes the large Western immigrant group of persons of Indonesian origin¹. Persons of South African origin constitute a small but special group, which was oversampled with the objective to compare the acculturation process of a group close to the Dutch culture and language to that of other cultural groups². In addition to these six specific groups, a group consisting of persons of Western European origin was drawn; a group of persons of Western non-European origin; and a group consisting of persons with a variety of non-Western backgrounds. Furthermore, the sample included a control group of persons of Dutch origin.

The aim was to build a panel of about 1800 persons, including proportional representations³ of each immigrant group but with a minimum of 125 panel members in each group to allow analyses within and between groups. To attain the (net) target number of respondents in each of the groups, the number of households to be drawn was calculated as:

¹ Due to their socio-economic and cultural position, people from Indonesia living in the Netherlands are seen as people with a 'western' background (see www.cbs.nl/statline). They are mainly people born in the former Dutch East Indies.

² We expect most South Africans living in the Netherlands to belong to the white, Afrikaans-speaking group.

³ That is, proportional for the immigrant population of the Netherlands, thus excluding the Dutch control group. In total, almost 20% of the population living in the Netherlands is of non-Dutch origin (first or second generation).

Gross number of households drawn = net number of households needed⁴ divided by 0.3 (expected recruitment rate for households of non-Dutch origin) and divided by 0.65 (expected monthly response rate). In addition, the numbers are corrected for unusable addresses (multiplied by 1.1.). For the Dutch control group the expected recruitment rate is 0.5.

The expected recruitment rates and monthly response rates were all based on the previous experience with the LISS panel. Table 1 shows the resulting gross numbers that were drawn in each group.

The MESS immigrant panel members receive simPCs and broadband Internet access if they do not have a computer and/or Internet, and they are paid the same incentives as the LISS panel members (15 euros per hour).

Table 1. Groups of interest

	Number of persons needed (net)	Number of households drawn (gross)
Moroccan-Dutch	125	474
Turkish-Dutch	150	565
Surinamese-Dutch	148	559
Antillean-Dutch	125	474
Indonesian-Dutch	201	756
South African	125	474
Western European	494	1862
Other Western	125	474
Other non-Western	246	926
Control group of Dutch	125	285
Total	1864	6849

⁴ All members of the households of 16 years or older are asked to participate in the panel. Based on LISS panel households of non-Dutch origin we expected on average 1.5 panel participants per household.

Recruitment response rates

Recruitment was carried out between March and December 2010. The recruitment procedures were tailored for the groups of non-Western origin, based on the experiences with these groups in the earlier recruitments of the LISS panel. In addition, the response rates of the different ethnic groups were continuously monitored during the recruitment and changed when necessary for specific groups.

Table 2 shows the overall response rates obtained in the different stages of the recruitment of the panel. Overall, 79% of the total gross sample was reached by an interviewer. In 2% (152) of the reached households, interviewers encountered too much of a language problem to conduct the recruitment interview (not shown). The language problems occurred most frequently with households of Turkish-Dutch origin (30 cases) and other non-Western origin (30 cases), and secondly with households of Moroccan-Dutch origin (22 cases). The response to the short CATI or CAPI interview or to the "central questions" (the first stage response) is 51%, averaged over all groups. In the next stage, 67% of those participating in the recruitment interview (or 34% of the total gross sample) told the interviewer they were willing to participate in the panel. The final panel membership rate is 28% of the total sample (Table 2).

Table 2. Household response in successive stages of recruitment. Percentage of the total gross sample minus not usable addresses.*

	<i>% of total gross sample</i>
Household was reached	79
Contact person completed CATI or CAPI recruitment interview or answered central questions	51
Contact person expressed willingness to participate in panel	34
Household registered as panel member	28
Total gross sample	6,733

* Not usable includes, among other things, non-existing or non-inhabited addresses, companies, long-term sick or disabled respondents. Language problems are not included in the 'not usable' category. In total, 116 (1.7%) addresses in the total gross immigrant sample were coded as 'not usable'.

Table 3 shows the final panel membership rates (that is: household registration rates) for the different ethnic groups in the sample. The registration rate is close to 30% in most groups. In three groups, it is considerably lower than average: the groups of Moroccan-Dutch origin (20%), Turkish-Dutch origin (20%) and other non-Western origin (23%).

Since the lower response rates of the Moroccan and the Turkish groups were already detected during the fieldwork monitoring, we intensified and adapted the recruitment efforts for these groups. Before this change in procedure, the Moroccan and Turkish respondents dropped out more often than other groups in the transition from recruitment to registration, that is: they told the interviewer they wanted to participate in the panel but did not actually register as panel member. The change in procedure consisted of sending CAPI interviewers back to those households with the instruction of remaining present until the respondent had registered (if he or she was still willing) and to assist with the registration if necessary. After this change, the gap between the recruitment rate and registration rate decreased somewhat: the percentage of Moroccan households that made the transition from expressing willingness to actual registration increased from 73 to 76, for Turkish households it increased from 68 to 71. Nevertheless, the overall response rate of the Moroccan and the Turkish groups remained too low.

Table 3. Registration rate in the different origin groups¹, February 2011. Percentage of the total gross sample within groups, minus not usable addresses.

	<i>Registered households as % of sampled households</i>
Moroccan-Dutch	20
Turkish-Dutch	20
Surinamese-Dutch	28
Antillean-Dutch	28
Indonesian-Dutch	32
South African	35
Western European	30
Other Western	29
Other non-Western	23
Control group of Dutch	35
Total registrations	1885

¹ Origin based on population register data

The final non-response follow-up action started in December 2010, consisting of a letter and a PAPI questionnaire of three questions, which were sent to all refusals and

unreached households. The letter mentioned that an iPod would be raffled among those who registered as a panel member, in addition to the normal 10 euro registration incentive. This action increased the total registration rate with 2% (Table 4). On average, about 30% of the households to which a PAPI letter was sent registered as panel member (Table 4). The letter was most successful among the groups of South African origin (registration rate 58% of all letters sent), other non-Western origin (42%), and Antillean-Dutch origin (35%).

Table 4. Household response as a result of the PAPI non-response follow-up action

	<i>% of PAPI letters sent</i>	<i>% of total gross sample</i>
Contact person expressed willingness to participate in panel	39	3
Household registered as panel member	31	2
Total number of PAPI letters sent	516	

Panel participation

When a new household enters the panel, the contact person of that household fills in a household questionnaire, specifying the composition of the household and some demographic information about each member of the household. The contact person also indicates which household members are willing to participate in the panel. Next, the persons who are willing are invited to complete a starting questionnaire asking, among other things, about their country of birth and the country of birth of their parents. With these data, we are able to define the origin groups in the same way as they are defined by Statistics Netherlands on the basis of the population register data⁵.

Table 5 shows the overall panel participation of persons within the registered households. The first line of the table gives the number of households registered as members of the Immigrant panel in April 2011, when most households had completed the household questionnaire and in addition most persons had completed the starting questionnaire. The second row of the table shows the total number of persons eligible for individual questionnaires, where eligible is defined as aged 16 or older and capable of filling in the questionnaires. All households in which at least one eligible person

⁵ At this moment, we do not link the register data to the answers given by panel members. The linkage might be possible in the future, after we have requested the panel members' consent.

participates are included in the panel. The third line of the table shows the number of eligible persons who are willing to answer questionnaires. On average, 81% of the eligible persons in the registered households are willing to participate as panel member. Finally, 2499 persons who were willing to participate completed the questions about their origin. Origin group is missing in the panel data for panel members who chose not to answer these questions, did not know their country of birth or that of (one of) their parents, or gave an answer we were unable to code.

Table 5. Participating panel members, early April 2011

	N April 2011
Household registered as panel member	1885
Eligible persons in households	3173
Persons willing to participate	2554
Persons with known origin from questionnaire	2499

Table 6 shows the number of participating persons in each of the origin groups, where origin is based on the reported countries of birth. In this table we compare this number, expressed as percentage of the total group of immigrants in the panel, to the percentage of the total immigrant population based on register data as provided by Statistics Netherlands (see also www.cbs.nl/statline).

Persons of Turkish-Dutch origin and other non-Western origin are underrepresented in the panel: 7% of the immigrant persons in the panel are of Turkish-Dutch origin, whereas 10% of the immigrant population of 16 years and older in the Netherlands is; 13% of the immigrant persons in the panel are of other non-Western origin, in the immigrant population this is 17%. The groups of Antillean-Dutch and South African origin are overrepresented, due to the minimum absolute number of 125 persons we wanted to include in each group for analysis purposes.

Table 7 gives the number of immigrants of the first and second generation in the panel, differentiated in terms of Western and non-Western origin.

Table 6. Participating panel members in the different origin groups, early April 2011

	Persons in panel (n) ¹	% of immigrants in panel ¹	% of immigrant population (CBS) ²
Moroccan-Dutch	127	7.3	8.5
Turkish-Dutch	118	6.8	10.3
Surinamese-Dutch	168	9.6	10.1
Antillean-Dutch	123	7.1	3.8
Indonesian-Dutch	223	12.8	13.8
South African	126	7.2	0.4
Western	632	36.2	36.3
Other non-Western	227	13.0	16.8
Dutch	755		
Total	2499		

¹ Panel members of 16 years or older. Origin based on questionnaire data.

² Population numbers of Statistics Netherlands (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, CBS), 2010, of persons aged 18 or older living in private households. Origin based on population register data.

Table 7. Participating panel members in generation groups, April 2011

	Persons in panel (n) ¹
First generation Western	368
First generation non-Western	604
Second generation Western	487
Second generation non-Western	285
Dutch	755
Total	2499

¹ Panel members of 16 years or older. Origin based on questionnaire data