

**Questionnaire of the
Panel Component of the Voter Study of the
European Election Study 2014 (EES2014)**

Introduction

This activity of the EES2014 is not centrally funded. Therefore, we have developed a very short questionnaire which we hope can be run in a number of online panel surveys that are currently administered in the EU member countries. At the end of February 2014, we have indications of interest to run these questions as part of existing online panels that are conducted in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Germany (two panels), Britain, Austria, Bulgaria and Sweden. It goes without saying that additional countries are welcome to join the endeavour.

The research question behind this initiative is the possibility of lasting re-alignments (or de-alignments as the case may be) that may be initiated by the 2014 European Parliament election. The causes of such potential realignments are, of course, not the election itself but the sovereign debt crises and its consequences in a number of EU member countries, plus the migration issue as a consequence of single market regulations. In order to identify such realignments, we are interested in comparing the voting behaviour of respondents in the EP election of May 2014 with the subsequent 1st order national election vote (“vote” here refers to both participation and party choice).

The following indicators are proposed. We distinguish between core and optional questions to enable as many as possible country online panel surveys to participate.

CORE

EP vote recall

A lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. Which of the following statements best describes you? [READ ALOUD]

- a. I did not vote in the EP election in May.
- b. I thought about voting this time but didn't.
- c. I usually vote but didn't this time.

- d. I am sure I voted in the EP election in May.
- e. DK

Source: Austrian NES

[IF VOTED]: Which party did you vote for?

- Party A ()
- Party B ()
- Party C ()
- Party D ()
- Party E ()
- NA ()
- DK ()

Source: EES 2014 and earlier EESs

Left-right scale

In political matters people talk of “the left” and “the right”. What is your position? Which number best describes your position?

LEFT 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 RIGHT (DK)

And about where would you place the following parties on this scale? [national specific party lists]

- Party A LEFT 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 RIGHT (DK)
- Party B LEFT 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 RIGHT (DK)
- Party C LEFT 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 RIGHT (DK)
- Party D LEFT 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 RIGHT (DK)
- Party E LEFT 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 RIGHT (DK)

Source: EES 2014 and earlier EESs

EU scale

“Some say European unification should be pushed further. Others say it already has gone too far. What is your opinion? What number on this scale best describes your position?”

Push further 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Gone too far (DK)

And about where would you place the following parties on this scale?

Party A Push further 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Gone too far (DK)

Party B Push further 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Gone too far (DK)

Party C Push further 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Gone too far (DK)

Party D Push further 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Gone too far (DK)

Party E Push further 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Gone too far (DK)

Source: EES 2014 and earlier EESs

National and EU Government approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the government’s record to date?

1. approve
2. disapprove
3. dk

Do you approve or disapprove of the policy decisions made by the EU in the last 12 months?

1. approve
2. disapprove
3. dk

Source: adapted from EES 2014 and earlier EESs

Retrospective Economic Evaluations

It is assumed that the standard questions on retrospective economic evaluations are asked anyways. If not, the following version of these questions could be used:

“How have the general economic situation in this country and the financial situation of your household changed over the last 12 months?”

The financial situation of your household ...

The general economic situation in this country ...

- a. Got a lot worse
- b. Got a little worse
- c. Stayed the same
- d. Got a little better
- e. Got a lot better
- f. DK

Source: BES Online Panel 2014

Partisanship

It is assumed that some national specific measure of partisanship is asked or has been asked in some earlier wave. If not, the following version could be used:

“Do you consider yourself to be close to any particular party? If so, which party do you feel close to? “

Party A ()

Party B ()

Party C ()

Party D ()

Party E ()

Not close to
any party ()

DK ()

“Do you feel yourself to be very close to this party, fairly close, or merely a sympathiser?”

very close ()

fairly close ()

merely a
sympathiser ()

DK ()

NA ()

Source: EES 2014 and earlier EESs

Vote previous national 1st order election

It is assumed that some national specific measure of previous first order vote is asked anyways or has been asked in some earlier wave. If not, the following version could be used:

“Which party did you vote for at the [last 1st order election of country] which took place in [mention year]?”

Party A ()

Party B ()

Party C ()

Party D ()

Party E ()

Other party, which: _____

Did not vote ()

DK ()

Source: EES 2014 and earlier EESs

OPTIONAL -- IF SPACE PERMITS --

Policy responsibilities

How responsible is each of the following institutions for the economic conditions in [country]?

ROTATE STIMULI IF POSSIBLE

	0 no response- bility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 full responsi- bility	don't know
The national government	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
The IMF	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
The banks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99
The European Union	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99

Source: adapted from EES 2009

Impact of the crisis

In 2014, how worried, if at all, are you about....

READ OUT – ROTATE ORDER		not at all	not very	quite	very	dk
a	paying your household bills	1	2	3	4	9
b	having to reduce your standard of living	1	2	3	4	9

c	having a job	1	2	3	4	9
d	paying off bank loans or mortgage payments	1	2	3	4	9

Source: Irish, Portuguese, and Greek National Election Studies

Economic solidarity

“Do you agree or disagree that in times of crisis, [our country] should give financial help to another EU Member State facing severe economic and financial difficulties?”

- a. Totally agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. totally disagree
- e. DK

Source: Adapted from special EB 74.1 2010

Propensities to Vote (PTVs)

“We have a number of parties in [country] each of which would like to get your vote. How probable is it that you will ever vote for the following parties?”

- Party A very probable 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 not at all probable (DK)
- Party B very probable 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 not at all probable (DK)
- Party C very probable 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 not at all probable (DK)
- Party D very probable 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 not at all probable (DK)
- Party E very probable 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 not at all probable (DK)

Source: EES 2014 and earlier