

weizenbaum
institut

Weizenbaum Panel

Political Participation in Germany in 2022

WP4-22

Questionnaire Documentation [Translated Version]

About this questionnaire documentation

The Weizenbaum Panel on Political Participation in Germany is a longitudinal study conducted annually by the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society in cooperation with the Institute for Journalism and Communication Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. The focus is on political engagement of citizens in Germany, with a particular concern for on the use of digital media and changes in political participation in the context of digitalization. Phenomena such as hate speech and fake news, which people are confronted with on the internet, are just as much a part of the survey as the active commitment to a democratic debate culture.

The questionnaire documented here was used in the fourth survey wave during the survey period from October 4 to December 27, 2022. A total of 2,023 people living in Germany were surveyed, about 41% of whom had already participated in the previous year's survey in 2021. All new participants were randomly selected from the German-speaking population in Germany aged 16 and over. The survey was conducted by the Weizenbaum Institute's "Weizenbaum Panel" research unit in the telephone studio at Freie Universität Berlin and by the Institut für Umfragen, Analysen und DataScience (Institute for Surveys, Analysis and DataScience, UADS) in Duisburg. The Weizenbaum Institute surveyed 1,510 people, UADS 513. All questions are documented below. In the event that a question was only asked to one of the two subsamples, this is noted accordingly in the filtering.

Publication notification

If you work with the data of the Weizenbaum Panel, please inform us about publications and their bibliographic data. Please let us know which wave(s) you have used. This will enable us to obtain an overview of the scientific use of the data.

Contact

Prof. Dr. Martin Emmer: martin.emmer@fu-berlin.de

Suggested citation

Emmer, M., Heger, K., Strippel, C., Jokerst, S., & Leißner, L. (2023). Weizenbaum Panel: Political Participation in Germany 2022, WP4-22 [Questionnaire documentation]. Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society. <https://doi.org/10.17605/osf.io/uh9er>

Profile

Name of the survey	Weizenbaum Panel: Political Participation in Germany 2022
Short form	WP4-22
Responsible institution	Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society
Funding	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), funding reference 16DII131
Survey institutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Berlin (in the Telephone studio of the Free University of Berlin) – UADS Institut für Umfragen, Analysen und DataScience GmbH, Duisburg
Responsible persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Martin Emmer (Scientific Management) – Katharina Heger, Laura Leißner, Christian Strippel, Sofie Jokerst (implementation) – Lisa Zenke, Paula Starke (assistance)
Goals of the survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative mapping of political communication and participation and political attitudes in Germany – Significance of using the internet and social media for political participation – Influence of citizenship norms and feminist attitudes on political participation – Investigating how people deal with hate speech and fake news on the internet
Survey mode	Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI)
Field time	Tue, October 4, 2022 – Tue, December 27, 2022 (12 weeks)
Contact times	Mon–Fri: 11:30–21:00; Sat: 11:30–18:00
Language of survey	German
Multi-topic survey	no
Number of questions (items)	69 (133)
Surveyed constructs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Media and social media usage, political media usages – Political interest, political efficacy, political trust – Understanding of and satisfaction with democracy, authoritarianism – Civic norms and political participation (incl. environmental protection) – Political orientation and feminist attitudes – Responding to hate comments and fake news on the internet (online civic intervention) – Sociodemographics
Target population	German-speaking resident population of the Federal Republic of Germany aged 16 years and older with telephone connection
Related surveys	ZA5227, WPI-19, WP2-20, WP3-21

Reading notes for the Questionnaire Documentation

For the purposes of quick orientation, this questionnaire documentation offers a **tabular overview of the variables surveyed**. These overviews contain the question title and a brief description of the associated item in addition to the variable names.

The variable names are composed according to the following pattern:

“Letter combination_two-digit number” (e.g., “SD_01”)

The letter combination indicates which variables belong to the same subject complex (e.g., all SD variables belong to the sociodemographics subject complex). The subsequent two-digit number is consecutive but does not continue without gaps, because not all items and constructs were surveyed in each wave.

If the two-digit number is followed by the letter “O,” this means that it is an open-ended variable (see notes on scale). The letter “M,” on the other hand, refers to multiple answers (M1, M2, M3, etc.). All other letters (A, B, C, etc.) indicate that a variable relates to a previous variable in terms of content.

Statements such as “_1” or “_2” indicate that the question used to elicit the construct measured in the corresponding variable has changed substantially compared to the one used in previous waves. An overview of all changes can be found on the Weizenbaum Panel website.

The variable names correspond to those in the associated data set.

A detailed documentation of all questions follows, which includes the following information in addition to the variable names and question titles:

Filter Filters indicate whether a question or individual items have been filtered based on previous responses. The filtering is described according to the following pattern:

IF “Filter variable” OPERATOR “Response to filter variable.”

The following operators are possible: = < >

Example: “IF SD_02=01” means that the question to which the filter is assigned was only asked if question SD_02 was previously answered with the value of 01.

In contrast, “IF MN_14<09” means that the question was only asked if the respondent gave an answer with a value less than 09 to question MN_14.

The same pattern is used to describe the filtering of individual items, but the term “Item” and the corresponding item variable that is being filtered is added before the IF condition.

Example: “Item MN_32 IF MN_03=01”

The term “IF PANEL>01” means that interviewers did not ask this question to those respondents who had already been interviewed in the previous survey wave—for instance, because the information in question was already on file.

The information “IF SAMPLE=01” means that the question was only asked to those respondents from the partial sample of the FU Berlin (n = 1,074).

Conversely, “IF SAMPLE>01” indicates that this question was asked only of the subsample surveyed by UADS (n = 521).

If no filter is noted, the question was asked of all respondents.

Programming	Notes on special features in programming, e.g., “rotation of items” or possibility of multiple answers (incl. indication of the minimum and maximum number of answers allowed).
Question text	Wording of the question as it was read to respondents.
Items	Formulation of items as they were read to respondents (item batteries only).
Scale	Answer options Open-ended statements are recorded in separate variables, but are tied to specific responses in standardized recorded variables. Example: The variable “SD_05O” contains open response data on the answer “09 Other country:” in “SD_05”—which is a standardized variable. To make this clear, the name of the variable with the open-response option is placed in square brackets after the corresponding answer specification, following the example above: “09 Other country: [SD_05O].”
Interview instructions	Notes for interviewers that were not read to respondents.

Overview of variables

Question title	Variable	Items
Media usage	MN_02 MN_03 MN_04 MN_05	Reading print newspapers and magazines Watching television Listening to the radio Using the internet
Media usage regarding political information	MN_02A MN_03A MN_04A MN_05A	Print newspapers and magazines Television Radio Internet
Social media usage	SM_17_1 SM_18_1 SM_20_1 SM_21 SM_16_1 SM_22	Video platforms Messenger services Short messaging services Professional networks Social networks Discussion platforms or forums
Frequency of social media usage	SM_17C SM_18C SM_20C SM_21C SM_16C SM_22C	Video platforms (frequency) Messaging services (frequency) Short message services (frequency) Professional networks (frequency) Social networks (frequency) Discussion platforms or forums (frequency)
Political discussions	PT_01_1	Political discussions
Expectation of sanctions	SE_01	Expression of opinion
Political interest	PT_02_1	Political interest
Political efficacy	PT_03_1 PT_04_1 PT_05_1 PT_06_2	Understanding and assessing political issues Politicians seek contact Participating in political conversations Politicians care what people think
Political trust	PT_07_2	Trust in the government
Understanding of democracy	PT_21_1 PT_22_1 PT_23_1 PT_24_1 PT_25_1 PT_26_1 PT_27 PT_28	Role of the opposition Experts as government Competence of politicians Importance of individual choice Freedom of demonstration Citizens' participation Deliberation: Taking part in discussion Deliberation: Being asked
Authoritarianism	AU_01 AU_02 AU_03	Proven behaviors Important decisions by leading positions Making troublemakers feel undesirable
Satisfaction with democracy	PT_10_1	Satisfaction with democracy
Attitudes towards digitization	DA_01 DA_02 DA_03	Social media Internet Artificial intelligence

Citizenship norms	BN_02_2	Participating in activities for environmental protection
	BN_04_2	Participating in political discussions
	BN_05_2	Following political topics in the media
	BN_06_2	Joining a political party
	BN_07_2	Participating in a demonstration
	BN_09_2	Abiding by the laws
	BN_11_2	Participating in federal elections
	BN_12_2	Starting political discussions
	BN_13_2	Sharing knowledge about politics with others
	BN_14_2	Obtaining information from trustworthy sources
	BN_16_2	Calling out fake news
	BN_17_2	Countering hate in discussions
	BN_18_1	Support respectful interaction in discussions
	BN_19_1	Sharing news articles that you find important
	BN_20_1	Drawing on different sources of information
	BN_21_1	Checking news sources
BN_23	Protecting natural resources	
BN_24	Deciding on products for political reasons	
Political orientation	PO_01	Left-right self-assessment
Feminist attitudes	FE_15	<i>[Publication after embargo period]</i>
	FE_16	
	FE_17	
	FE_18	
	FE_19	
	FE_20	
	FE_21	
	FE_22	
	FE_23	
	FE_24	
	FE_25	
	FE_26	
	FE_14_1	
	Political participation	PP_01
PP_04		Party membership
PP_11		Demonstration
PP_14		Donation
PP_15		Political consumption
PP_16		Contact with politicians
PP_17		Petition
PP_17A		Petition online
PP_23		Sharing petition
PP_18		Volunteering
PP_20		Mobilizing others
PP_21_1		Sharing political content on social media
PP_22_1	Commenting on political content on social media	
Online civic intervention	PP_40	Has seen hateful comments
	PP_50_1	Has respect demanded
	PP_52	Has flagged hateful comments
	PP_57	Has seen fake news
	PP_60	Has verified fake news
	PP_58	Has flagged fake news
PP_59	Has warned others about fake news	

Frequency of political participation	UEB_00 PP_11C PP_14C PP_15C PP_16C PP_17C PP_17D PP_23C PP_18C PP_20C PP_21C PP_22C	Transition question Demonstration (frequency) Donation (frequency) Political consumption (frequency) Contact with politicians online (frequency) Petition (frequency) Petition online (frequency) Sharing petition (frequency) Volunteering (frequency) Mobilizing others online (frequency) Sharing political content on social media (frequency) Commenting on political content on social media (freq)
Frequency of online civic intervention	PP_50C PP_52C PP_60C PP_58C PP_59C	Demanding respect (frequency) Flagging hateful comments (frequency) Verifying fake news (frequency) Flagging fake news (frequency) Warning others about fake news (frequency)
Environmental participation	PP_30 PP_30A PP_31 PP_32 PP_32A	Driving a car Reduction of driving a car Reduction of energy consumption Meat consumption Reduction of meat consumption
Year of birth	SD_01	Year of birth
Gender	SD_15	Gender
Citizenship	SD_02	German citizenship
Country of birth	SD_04 SD_05 SD_05O	Germany Other country of birth Other response to SD_05
Parents' country of birth	SD_06	Parents' country of birth
Household size	SD_07	Household size
Number of telephone numbers	SD_09M1- SD_09M2	Number of landline numbers Number of cell phone numbers
Subjective social status	SD_16 SD_16A	Social ladder Social ladder: Descent or ascent
Socialization	SD_17	Federal state
School diploma	SD_11	School diploma
Place of residence	SD_10	Place of residence
Profession	SD_13M1 SD_13M2 SD_13M3 SD_13M4 SD_13M5	Profession 1 Profession 2 Profession 3 Profession 4 Profession 5
Income	SD_14	Income

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: The first thing we're interested in is how often you use different forms of media. I will now name a number of forms of media and I'm going to ask you to tell me in each case how often you use these forms of media. Do you use them "daily," "several times a week," "several times a month," "less frequently" or "never?" What is the case for ...

Items:

MN_02	Reading print newspapers and magazines
MN_03	Watching television, also online via media libraries, for example
MN_04	Listening to the radio, also online or via apps, for example
MN_05	Using the internet

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
05	Never
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: Item MN_02A IF MN_02<05, Item MN_03A IF MN_03<05, Item MN_04A IF MN_04<05, Item MN_05A IF MN_05<05

Programming: –

Question text: You can also use these types of media to find out about current political events. Please tell me how often you use each form of media to get political information. Do you do so “daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” “less frequently” or “never?” What is the case for ...

Items:

MN_02A	Print newspapers and magazines
MN_03A	Television
MN_04A	Radio
MN_05A	Internet

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
05	Never
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Current political affairs are what is usually reported in the news: current events at home and abroad, politics etc. Assignment of the media as in the previous question.

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05

Programming: –

Question text: Next, we are interested in what services on the internet you generally use. I will now name six different platforms and will ask you to tell me if you have used them in the last 12 months. What is the case for...

Items:

- SM_17_1 Video platforms like YouTube or TikTok
- SM_18_1 Messenger services like WhatsApp, Telegram or Signal
- SM_20_1 Short message services like Twitter
- SM_21 Professional networks like LinkedIn or Xing
- SM_16_1 Social networks like Facebook or Instagram
- SM_22 Discussion platforms or forums like Reddit or gutefrage.net

Scale:

- 01 Yes
- 02 No
- 03 I do not know that one
- 99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05; Item SM_17C IF SM_17_1=01, Item SM_18C IF SM_18_1=01, Item SM_20C IF SM_20_1=01, Item SM_21C IF SM_21=01, Item SM_16C IF SM_16_1=01, Item SM_22C IF SM_22=01

Programming: –

Question text: Now, I'm going to list the platforms that you have used and I'm going to ask you to tell me how often you usually use them. Do you use them "several times a day," "about every day," "several times a week," "several times a month," or "less frequently?" What is the case for...

Items:

SM_17C	Video platforms like YouTube or TikTok
SM_18C	Messenger services like WhatsApp, Telegram or Signal
SM_20C	Short messaging services like Twitter
SM_21C	Professional networks like LinkedIn or Xing
SM_16C	Social networks like Facebook or Instagram
SM_22C	Discussion platforms or forums such as Reddit or gutefrage.net

Scale:

01	Several times a day
02	More or less daily
03	Several times a week
04	Several times a month
05	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: The next questions will be about political issues. First of all, in general terms: How often do you talk about issues you consider politically important at work or with friends and family? Do you do so “always,” “often,” “sometimes,” “rarely,” or “never?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Always
02	Often
03	Sometimes
04	Rarely
05	Never
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: “Always” does not mean that a person ONLY talks about political issues, but that (almost) every time they talk to others, they ALSO talk about political issues.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: If you express your opinion on a political issue on the Internet, how likely do you think it is that others will react negatively to it? “Very likely,” “rather likely,” “moderately likely,” “rather unlikely,” or “very unlikely?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Very likely
02	Rather likely
03	Moderately likely
04	Rather unlikely
05	Very unlikely
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Even if people do not express themselves politically, they should indicate what they expect if they were - theoretically - to express themselves. What they understand as a negative reaction is up to them. Examples of negative reactions are harassment and insults, but also criticism or counter-speech.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: How interested would you say you are in politics? Are you “very interested,” “somewhat interested,” “neither interested nor disinterested,” “somewhat disinterested,” or “not interested at all?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Very interested
02	Somewhat interested
03	Neither interested nor disinterested
04	Somewhat disinterested
05	Not interested at all
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: Rotation of the items

Question text: You will now hear some statements. For each statement, please tell me how strongly you agree with the statement: “strongly agree,” “rather agree,” “neither agree nor disagree,” “rather disagree,” or “strongly disagree.” How about the following statement:

Items:

- PT_03_1 I can understand and assess important political issues well.
- PT_04_1 Politicians strive to maintain close contact with the people.
- PT_05_1 I have the confidence to actively participate in a conversation about political issues.
- PT_06_2 Politicians care about what members of the public think.
- PT_07_2 For the most part, you can trust the government to do the right thing.
- PT_21_1 The political opposition should support the government’s work instead of criticizing it.
- PT_22_1 Our government would function better if independent experts made the decisions.
- PT_23_1 Politicians don’t have a clue; even I could do better than them.
- PT_24_1 No matter who you vote for, it doesn’t make a difference to what happens in politics.
- PT_25_1 Everyone has the right to take to the streets to demonstrate for what they believe in at any time.
- PT_26_1 Democracy requires participation by everyone, not just by the parties.
- PT_27 In a democracy, better political decisions can be made when citizens can participate in making those decisions through public discussions.
- PT_28 In a democracy, better political decisions can be made when citizens are regularly consulted.
- AU_01 Proven behaviors should not be questioned.
- AU_02 People should leave important decisions in society to leadership positions.
- AU_03 Troublemakers should be explicitly made aware that they are unwelcome in society.

Scale:

- 01 Strongly agree
- 02 Rather agree
- 03 Neither agree nor disagree
- 04 Rather disagree
- 05 Strongly disagree
- 99 No answer/don’t know

Interview instructions: Organized public discussions refer to, for example, citizens’ forums or assemblies where citizens discuss political issues, take votes, and make recommendations, which can then be acted upon by policymakers.

Note: Items on political efficacy (PT_03_01 – PT_06_2) according to short scale by Beierlein et al. (2014); items on understanding of democracy (PT_21_1 – PT_28) according to Zorell & van Deth (2020); items on authoritarianism according to ultra-short scale by Heller et al. (2020).

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: And how well do you think democracy works in Germany? “Very well,” “fairly well,” “neither well nor badly,” “not so well,” or “not well at all?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Very well
02	Fairly well
03	Neither well nor badly
04	Not so well
05	Not well at all
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: There is a lot of talk about digitalization at the moment. I will now name three areas of digitalization and would ask you to tell me how positively or negatively you rate them in general: “very positive,” “rather positive,” “neither positive nor negative,” “rather negative” or “very negative?” What is the case for...

Items:

DA_01	Social media
DA_02	Internet
DA_03	Artificial intelligence

Scale:

01	Very positive
02	Rather positive
03	Neither positive nor negative
04	Rather negative
05	Very negative
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Do not specify a particular area of life, the answer should be intuitive.

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: Rotation of the items

Question text: There are different views on what a person should do as a “good citizen.” I am now going to read to you a series of activities and I’m going to ask you to tell me whether you find them “very important,” “fairly important,” “neither important nor unimportant,” “fairly unimportant,” or “not important at all.” This is not about what you personally would do, but more generally about what you think an exemplary citizen should do. Such a person should...

Items:

- BN_02_2 participate in activities for environmental protection.
- BN_04_2 participate in political discussions.
- BN_05_2 follow political topics in the media.
- BN_06_2 join a political party.
- BN_07_2 participate in demonstrations.
- BN_09_2 abide by laws.
- BN_11_2 participate in federal elections.
- BN_12_2 initiate discussions on important political issues by sharing their own thoughts
- BN_13_2 share knowledge about politics with others.
- BN_14_2 obtain information from trustworthy sources.
- BN_16_2 call out fake news.
- BN_17_2 speak out against hate in discussions.
- BN_18_1 support a climate of respectful engagement with others in political discussions.
- BN_19_1 share news articles that they find important.
- BN_20_1 draw on different sources of information.
- BN_21_1 check news sources.
- BN_23 protect natural resources, for example by saving water or recycling.
- BN_24 choose products for political, ethical or environmental reasons, even if they cost a little more.

Scale:

- 01 Very important
- 02 Fairly important
- 03 Neither important nor unimportant
- 04 Fairly unimportant
- 05 Not important at all
- 99 No answer/don’t know

Interview instructions: It is important that respondents do not relate the norms mentioned to their own behavior but evaluate them in terms of what an imagined “ideal citizen” should do. Therefore, please repeat the introductory sentence “Such a person should...” every now and then.

Note: Items on traditional citizenship norms according to ISSP Research Group (2012); items on internet-related civic norms according to Gagrčin et al. (2022).

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: Many people use the terms “left” and “right” when referring to different political attitudes. Where would you rank yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with a value of 1 meaning “far left” and a value of 10 meaning “far right?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Far left
02	
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
10	Far right
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: If asked what is meant by “left” or “right,” please answer: “Whatever you understand by that.”

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question Text: There are different views on the role of gender in our society. I will now read you some statements and for each statement, please tell me again how strongly you agree with the statement: “strongly agree,” “rather agree,” “neither agree nor disagree,” “rather disagree” or “strongly disagree.” How about the following statement:

Items:

[Publication after embargo period]

Scale:

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 01 | Strongly agree |
| 02 | Rather agree |
| 03 | Neither agree nor disagree |
| 04 | Rather disagree |
| 05 | Strongly disagree |
| 99 | No answer/don't know |

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

PP_01

Political participation: Voting in the last federal election

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: Did you vote in the last federal election in September 2021?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
03	No eligibility to vote
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Are you a member of a party?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Besides party membership, there are other ways to get involved politically or socially. I'm going to name a few options and I'm going to ask you to tell me in each case if you have done this in the last 12 months. Did you participate in a demonstration during this time?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you donated money to a political, social, or non-profit organization in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you intentionally bought or not bought certain products for political or ethical reasons in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you made contact with politicians or other politically important people, for example, also in your city in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Question is not tied to political office. Respondents should decide for themselves who is politically important.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you participated in collecting signatures or in a petition in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_17=01

Programming: –

Question text: Have you done this online as well?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes, online as well
02	No, offline only
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05

Programming: –

Question text: Have you ever shared a petition with others—for example, on social media—in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: By “other people” we mean friends and acquaintances as well as a larger public, e.g., a public group on Facebook.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you volunteered with a social, humanitarian or non-profit organization in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you encouraged other people to get involved politically or socially in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

PP_21_1

Political participation: Sharing political content on social media

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND (SM_17_1=01 OR SM_18_1=01 OR SM_20_1=01 OR SM_21=01 OR SM_16_1=01 OR SM_22=01)

Programming: –

Question text: In the last 12 months, have you shared links or content about political issues via messenger services or social media?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: “Content about political issues” means, for example, news articles, videos, blogposts, or postings from other users. “Social media” refers to all platforms that were listed in the questions at the beginning of the survey, i.e., social networks, video platforms, messenger services, short message services, professional networks, and discussion platforms.

Note: –

PP_22_1

Political participation: Commenting on political content on social media

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND (SM_17_1=01 OR SM_18_1=01 OR SM_20_1=01 OR SM_21=01 OR SM_16_1=01 OR SM_22=01)

Programming: –

Question text: And have you commented on political content via messenger services or social media in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05

Programming: –

Question text: Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about people writing hateful comments or insulting each other on the internet. Have you seen a comment like this in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: The question is whether the respondents have seen such a comment themselves on an internet platform and not whether they have heard about it in the media, for example.

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_40=01

Programming: –

Question text: There are several things you can do when you see comments like this. I'm going to name a few such options and I'm going to ask you to tell me in each case if you have done this in the last 12 months. Have you called on someone to remain respectful?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

PP_52

Online civic intervention: Has flagged hateful comments

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_40=01

Programming: –

Question text: Have you reported an offensive or hateful comment to the platform operator in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05

Programming: –

Question text: There has also been a lot of discussion lately about people spreading fake news on the internet. Have you seen such fake news in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: The question is whether the respondents have seen such fake news themselves on an internet platform and not whether they have heard about it in the media, for example.

Note: –

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_57=01

Programming: –

Question text: Have you tried to verify fake news content yourself in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: By “content,” we mean the facts or sources; by “verify,” we mean searching for information that might confirm or refute the message.

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_57=01

Programming: –

Question text: Have you reported fake news to the platform operator in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

PP_59

Online civic intervention: Has warned others
about fake news

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_57=01

Programming: –

Question text: Have you warned other users about spreading fake news in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

Filter: IF PP_11=01 OR PP_14=01 OR PP_15=01 OR PP_16=01 OR PP_17=01 OR PP_23=01 OR PP_18=01 OR PP_20=01 OR PP_21_1=01 OR PP_22_1=01 OR (PP_40=01 AND PP_50_1=01) OR (PP_40=01 AND PP_52=01) OR (PP_57=01 AND PP_60=01) OR (PP_57=01 AND PP_58=01) OR (PP_57=01 AND PP_59=01)

Programming: –

Question text: You just indicated that you have been politically involved in the last 12 months. Now, we would like to know how often you did so.

Items: –

Scale:

01 More

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

PP_11C

Frequency of political participation:
Demonstration (frequency)

Filter: IF PP_11=01

Programming: –

Question text: Approximately how many demonstrations have you participated in over the past 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: The respondent should simply say a number. If asked for a definition of “demonstration,” answer: “Whatever you understand by that.” Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_14C

Frequency of political participation: Donation
(frequency)

Filter: IF PP_14=01

Programming: –

Question text: How many different organizations have you donated money to in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: The question is about how many different organizations or causes the respondent has donated money to. The amount of money does not matter. Regular direct debits (e.g., standing orders) are therefore considered a donation. It does not matter what type of organization the respondent donated to. Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_15C

Frequency of political participation: Political consumption (frequency)

Filter: IF PP_15=01

Programming: –

Question text: In the last 12 months, how often have you made a point of buying or not buying certain products for political or ethical reasons when making purchases? Did you do this “very often,” “often,” “sometimes,” or “rarely?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Very often
02	Often
03	Sometimes
04	Rarely
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

PP_16C

Frequency of political participation: Contact with politicians online (frequency)

Filter: IF PP_16=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you contacted politicians or public figures in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: “How often” refers to the number of occasions the respondent made contact. Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_17C

Frequency of political participation: Petition
(frequency)

Filter: IF PP_17=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you participated in a petition or in collecting signatures in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_17D

Frequency of political participation: Petition
online (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_17=01 AND PP_17A=01

Programming: –

Question text: And roughly how many times have you done so online?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_23C

Frequency of political participation: Sharing
petition (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_23=01

Programming: –

Question text: How many times have you shared a petition with others, for example on social media, in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: The question here is about the number of petitions. By “other people” we mean friends and acquaintances as well as a larger public, e.g., a public group on Facebook. Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_18C

Frequency of political participation: Volunteering
(frequency)

Filter: IF PP_18=01

Programming: –

Question text: Approximately how many hours per month have you spent volunteering in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Please enter only a single, whole number (e.g. “4”), no words.

Note: –

PP_20C

Frequency of political participation: Mobilizing others online (frequency)

Filter: IF PP_20=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you encouraged other people to get involved politically or socially in the last 12 months? “Very often,” “often,” “sometimes,” or “rarely?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Very often
02	Often
03	Sometimes
04	Rarely
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

PP_21C

Frequency of political participation: Sharing political content on social media (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND (SM_17_1=01 OR SM_18_1=01 OR SM_20_1=01 OR SM_21=01 OR SM_16_1=01 OR SM_22=01) AND PP_21_1=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you shared political links or content on social media in the last 12 months? Did you do so “daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: “Political content” means, for example, news articles, videos, blogposts, or postings from other users.

Note: –

PP_22C

Frequency of political participation: Commenting on political content on social media (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND (SM_17_1=01 OR SM_18_1=01 OR SM_20_1=01 OR SM_21=01 OR SM_16_1=01 OR SM_22=01) AND PP_22_1=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you commented on political content online in the last 12 months?
“Daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: “Political content” means, for example, news articles, videos, blogposts, or postings from other users.

Note: –

PP_50C

Frequency of online civic intervention:
Demanding respect (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_40=01 AND PP_50_1=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you urged writers of hateful comments to remain respectful in the last 12 months? “Daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

PP_52C

Frequency of online civic intervention: Flagging hateful comments (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_40=01 AND PP_52=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you flagged hateful comments in the last 12 months? “Daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Che  et al. (2020).

PP_60C

Frequency of online civic intervention: Verifying
fake news (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_57=01 AND PP_60=01

Programming: –

Question text: How many times have you tried to verify fake news content yourself in the last 12 months? “Daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Che  et al. (2020).

PP_58C

Frequency of online civic intervention: Flagging
fake news (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_57=01 AND PP_58=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you reported fake news in the last 12 months? “Daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

PP_59C

Frequency of online civic intervention: Warning others about fake news (frequency)

Filter: IF MN_05<05 AND PP_57=01 AND PP_59=01

Programming: –

Question text: How often have you warned others about fake news in the last 12 months? “Daily,” “several times a week,” “several times a month,” or “less frequently?”

Items: –

Scale:

01	Daily
02	Several times a week
03	Several times a month
04	Less frequently
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you driven a car in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: This is explicitly about whether you drove yourself and not whether you were a passenger.

Note: Question developed by Porten-Cheé et al. (2020).

PP_30A

Environmental participation: Reduction of driving
a car

Filter: IF PP_30=01

Programming: –

Question text: And have you restricted driving in the last 12 months for environmental reasons?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you reduced your private energy consumption in the last 12 months for environmental reasons?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Energy consumption includes electricity, heating and hot water, i.e. electricity, oil and gas. If energy consumption is only restricted for financial reasons, the answer here is “No.”

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Have you eaten meat in the last 12 months?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF PP_32=01

Programming: –

Question wording: And have you reduced your meat consumption in the last 12 months for environmental or animal protection reasons?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Even if meat consumption has been reduced for longer than the last 12 months, the answer here is “Yes.”

Note: –

SD_01

Year of birth

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: Now we have almost reached the end. All that is missing is some general information about yourself. First of all, please tell me your year of birth.

Items: –

Scale:

[] Open response field (Format: YYYY)
99 No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Please enter as a four-digit number (e.g., 1982).

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: What is your gender?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Female
02	Male
03	Non-binary
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Read out answer options in case of follow-up questions or ambiguities. Respondents who indicate “fluid,” “inter,” or “trans” are entered as “non-binary.” The “no answer” category should only be ticked if the respondent refuses to make a statement.

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: Do you have the German citizenship?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: Were you born in Germany?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Yes
02	No
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01 AND SD_04=02

Programming: –

Question text: What country were you born in?

Items: –

Scale:

01	Turkey
02	Poland
03	Russia
04	Italy
05	Romania
06	Greece
07	Kazakhstan
08	Syria
09	Other country: [SD_05O]
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: –

Filter: IF PANEL>01

Programming: –

Question text: Were your parents born in Germany?

Items: –

Scale:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 01 | Yes, both of them were born in Germany |
| 02 | No, not my mother |
| 03 | No, not my father |
| 04 | No, neither |
| 99 | No answer/don't know |

Interview instructions: If no, ask, if necessary, which of the two parents was not born in Germany.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: [Only for PANEL=01: Now we have almost reached the end. All that is missing is some general information about yourself.] How many people currently live in your household, including yourself?

Items: –

Scale:

[]	Open response
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Please enter only one digit (e.g., “3”). A shared apartment also counts as a household.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: Multiple answers possible (max: 2; min: 1), except 99

Question text: For statistical reasons, we need to ask you how many private phone numbers you can currently be reached at. So, how many different landline numbers and how many different cell phone numbers are you currently available on?

Items: –

Scale:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| [] | [SD_09M1] Open response (Number of landline numbers) |
| [] | [SD_09M2] Open response (Number of cell phone numbers) |
| 99 | No answer/don't know |

Interview instructions: Please enter only one digit (e.g., “2”) in each case. Please enter “0” if no landline or cell phone number is available.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Now I ask you to imagine our society as a social ladder, from 1 “at the bottom” to 10 “at the top.” At the top of the ladder are those who are best off, i.e. those who have the most money, the most education and the best jobs. At the bottom of the ladder are those who are the worst off. Please rank yourself on the ladder from 1 “at the bottom” to 10 “at the top.”

Items: –

Scale:

10	At the top
09	
08	
07	
06	
05	
04	
03	
02	
01	At the bottom
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: –

Note: Question based on Adler et al. (2000).

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: And if you think back to your childhood and youth, would you say you have gone down the ladder since then, climbed up or stayed the same?

Items: –

Scale:

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 01 | Rather descended |
| 02 | Rather climbed up |
| 03 | Stayed the same |
| 99 | No answer/don't know |

Interview instructions: “Childhood and adolescence” refers to the period up to the age of 14.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Where did you live predominantly during your youth? On the territory of the old federal states, on the territory of the new federal states or outside Germany?

Items: –

Scale:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 01 | On the territory of the old federal states |
| 02 | On the territory of the new federal states |
| 03 | Outside of Germany |
| 99 | No answer/don't know |

Interview instructions: Youth refers to the period up to the age of 14. Old federal states: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, West Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Schleswig-Holstein. New federal states: East Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia. Former German eastern territories (Silesia, East/West Prussia, Pomerania) are now “outside Germany.”

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: What general school diploma do you have?

Items: –

Scale:

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 01 | Still at school |
| 02 | Left school without a diploma |
| 03 | Basic school diploma |
| 04 | Intermediate school diploma |
| 05 | Advanced school diploma |
| 06 | Higher school diploma |
| 99 | No answer |

Interview instructions: Only list the highest school diploma indicated. Only read out answer choices if the respondent is unsure.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Which of the following categories best describes where you live? “Large city,” “outskirts or suburbs of a large city,” “medium-sized or small town,” or “rural village?”

Items: –

Scale:

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 01 | Large city |
| 02 | Outskirts or suburb of a large city |
| 03 | Medium-sized or small town |
| 04 | Rural village |
| 99 | No answer/don't know |

Interview instructions: A large city has more than 100,000 inhabitants, a small town has more than 5,000, and a village has up to 5,000.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: Multiple answers possible (max: 5; min: 1), except 99

Question text: Now let's continue with employment and your profession. I will now read out various categories and you can tell me what applies to you. You can also choose several categories:

Items: –

Scale:

01	Employee
02	Manual worker
03	Self-employed
04	Civil servant
05	Not employed
06	Student or pupil
07	Permanently on sick leave or unable to work
08	Pensioner
09	Housewife/househusband
10	Other
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: On request: If you are currently temporarily unable to work due to illness, parental leave, leave of absence, strike or similar, but are normally employed, please indicate this employment relationship.

Note: –

Filter: –

Programming: –

Question text: Finally, if I may, I would like to ask you a question about your income. We would like to know what your household's average monthly net income is, that is, the money you have available each month. I will now read to you various income groups. Please say *STOP* as soon as I name your group.

Items: –

Scale:

01	Up to 500 euros
02	500 to 1,000 euros
03	Over 1,000 to 2,000 euros
04	2,000 to 3,000 euros
05	3,000 to 4,000 euros
06	4,000 to 5,000 euros
07	5,000 to 6,000 euros
08	More than 6,000 euros
99	No answer/don't know

Interview instructions: Read out categories! This refers to the money of all members of the household. We are asking this question in order to be able to evaluate groups of people with different incomes. A shared apartment also counts as a household.

Note: –

References

- Adler, N., Epel, E. S., Castellazzo, G., & Ickovics, J. R. (2000). Relationship of subjective and objective social status with psychological and physiological functioning: Preliminary data in healthy white women. *Health Psychology* 19(6), 586–592. <https://doi.org/10.1037//0278-6133.19.6.586>
- Beierlein, C., Kemper, C. J., Kovaleva, A., & Rammstedt, B. (2014). Political Efficacy Kurzskala (PEKS). *ZIS – Open Access Repositorium für Messinstrumente*. <https://doi.org/10.6102/zis34>
- Breyer, B. (2015). Left-Right Self-Placement (ALLBUS). *ZIS – Open Access Repositorium für Messinstrumente*. <https://doi.org/10.6102/zis83>
- Gagrčin, E., Porten-Cheé, P., Leißner, L., Emmer, M., & Jørring, L. (2022). What makes a good citizen online? The emergence of discursive citizenship norms in social media environments. *Social Media + Society*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051221084297>
- Heller, A., Decker, O., Schmalbach, B., Beutel, M., Fegert, J. M., Brähler, E., & Zenger, M. (2020). Detecting authoritarianism efficiently: Psychometric properties of the screening instrument authoritarianism – Ultra Short (A-US) in a German representative sample. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11, 533863. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.533863>
- ISSP Research Group (2012). International Social Survey Programme: Citizenship – ISSP 2004. *GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA3950 Datenfile Version 1.3.0*. <https://doi.org/10.4232/1.11372>
- Porten-Cheé, P., Kunst, M., & Emmer, M. (2020). Online Civic Intervention: A new form of political participation under conditions of a disruptive online discourse. *International Journal of Communication*, 14, 514–534.
- Zorell, C. V., & van Deth, J. W. (2020). Understandings of democracy: New norms and participation in changing democracies. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/bmrxv>