

Swedish Interest Group Survey

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General information

The Swedish interest group survey is part of the project “The mobilization of attitudinal bias? Attitudinal representativeness of organized interests”, funded by the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällesfrågor, MUCF). The population of interest groups was identified within the project “Who are the lobbyists? A population study of interest groups in Sweden” funded by the Swedish Research Council.

Sampling procedure

To identify interest groups, we used a combination of four different sources: the government archives over incoming letters and e-mail, responses to public consultations, lists of activities during *Almedalsveckan*,¹ and the comparative interest group project INTEREURO.

First, we included in the population all interest groups from which there existed *at least one incoming letter or e-mail in the public government archives* for the year 2011 (in Sweden all incoming mail to the government ministries is made public). This indication of activity was chosen to make the population as inclusive as possible, while still limiting it to groups that are actively trying to influence the government. This is the source through which most groups in the population were identified.

Second, we added all interest groups that had responded to public consultations during 2011 – both groups that had been asked to send responses to consultations and groups that chose to do so themselves.

Third, we added all interest groups that had organized events during *Almedalsveckan* in 2011.

Fourth, a smaller number of interest groups were identified within the comparative interest group research project INTEREURO (www.intereuro.eu).

¹ Almedalsveckan is a major political event taking place every year. See <http://www.almedalsveckan.info/>.

The total population identified this way consisted of **1723** interest groups. Preparation for the survey included cleaning of the database, which meant excluding groups that were no longer active at the time of the survey; for which no contact information could be found, etc.

When collecting contact information, we aimed to find individuals with a good understanding of the organization's activities, organizational structure, members and interests/policy positions.

The survey was sent to **1542** eligible groups, of which **647** responded, resulting in a response rate of **42 %**.

The survey

A pilot survey was conducted during May 2015, including 100 randomly selected groups. The survey was sent out via e-mail. The groups received one e-mail reminder. The pilot survey resulted in very small changes of the questionnaire, and changes were only made to variables that are not included in the CIG survey dataset.

The sharp survey was in field between June 10th 2015 and September 28th 2015. The survey was sent out via e-mail. E-mail reminders were sent out before and after the summer holidays. In September, groups that had not yet responded also received telephone reminders. In the end, 647 out of 1542 groups responded, resulting in a response rate of 42 %. As shown in Figure 1 below, there is very little bias in terms of interest group type among the responding groups.

Figure 1: Population and survey respondents, by group type

Population

Responded to survey (42%)

