

The European Parliament Research Group: Member of Parliament (EPRG MEP) Surveys

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection – as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

The Member of European Parliament-surveys (MEP-surveys) are organized by the European Parliament Research Group, which is part of the Department of Government at London School of Economics and Political Science. Its [members](#) are from all over Europe and the US.

The main goal of the EPRG is to improve the understanding of political behaviour and institutions in the European Parliament and the research done in this field. The subgoals derived from this main goal are to:

- 1) develop collaborative research agendas and co-ordinate individual research projects
- 2) share existing knowledge, expertise, and data, and co-ordinate data collection to avoid replication
- 3) engage with practitioners in the European Parliament and other 'end users' of political science research at every stage of the research process
- 4) place the research outputs in leading academic journals and university presses (see working papers)
- 5) connect research on the European Parliament to the general study of legislative behaviour and institutions in political science

The 2010 survey was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council of the United Kingdom.

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey

Shaun Bowler and David Farrell conducted a survey of the MEPs in the 1989-94 Parliament. This was the forerunner to the EPRG MEP Surveys.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization.

The EPRG does not have a website of their own; however it does hold a subpage at LSE:

[The European parliament research group.](#)

It also has a subpage for the survey data:

[EPRG MEP Survey Data](#)

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

After the initial survey of the 1989-94 Parliament, there have been three rounds of surveys conducted by David Farrell, Simon Hix and Roger Scully.

Round 1: 2000 (of the 1999-2004 Parliament)

Round 2: 2006 (of the 2004-2009 Parliament)

Round 3: 2010 (of the 2009-2014 Parliament)

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The 2006 survey included the following questions: Personal details (e.g. member state, date first elected to EP, previous political experience etc.); Electoral systems and candidate selection; Campaigning aims and activities in 2004 elections; Attitudes/behavior relating to representation; Behavior in committees and voting in the Parliament; General political attitudes; attitudes towards specific EU policies and attitudes towards EU institutional reform.

The 2010 survey included seven categories of questions, rather overlapping the categories from 2006:

- 1) Background and Career
- 2) Getting elected to the European Parliament
- 3) 2009 Electoral Campaign
- 4) Representation and contacts
- 5) Legislative behaviour
- 6) General Political Attitudes
- 7) Views on EU politics

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used.

No sample was used. All MEPs were contacted by e-mail (in their own language) and asked to complete the survey. The e-mail included a message from the President of the European Parliament, encouraging the MEPs to complete it. The EPRG sent three follow-up e-mails. Since not all answered, one might call it a self-selection sample.

For details on response rates and samples, please refer to [the integrated survey datafile](#) (excel). Do note that access to this file is upon application.

The 2000 round was conducted via a paper-based questionnaire, whereas the 2006 and 2010 were conducted as online surveys. The surveys existed in all the 23 official languages of the EU.

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

The data are available at no cost, but only for academic research purposes. Access to the datasets is password-protected, and requires contacting Simon Hix by e-mail with an explanation of intended use of the data. Also, bibliographic acknowledgement is demanded.

Questionnaires, English version

[EPRG 2000 MEP survey questionnaire \(pdf file\)](#)

[EPRG 2006 MEP survey questionnaire \(pdf file\)](#)

[EPRG 2010 MEP survey questionnaire \(pdf file\)](#)

These are only available upon registration.

The countries included in the different rounds

Not relevant for this survey.

Cumulative file of the various rounds

[EPRG integrated 2000, 2006 and 2010 MEP survey datafile](#) (excel format, only accessible upon contacting mr. Hix)

Publications based on the data

There is no list of publications based on the data.

Analytical summary...

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the EPRG.