

Online Appendix for:

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Investing in education in Europe: Evidence from a new survey of public opinion

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Table 1.A. Differences between mean values in the INVEDUC survey and the ESS; comparisons with and without weights

	Average age		Share of females		Years of education		Share of unemployed		Share of students		Share of retired		Share of working full-time	
	Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted		Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted		Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted		Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted		Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted		Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted		Difference INVEDUC-ESS unw. weighted	
Germany	5.23	-0.59	0.00	0.02	1.01	0.66	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	0.09	0.02	-0.03	0.01
Italy	8.28	2.25	0.07	0.01	0.49	0.05	-0.05	-0.04	-0.05	-0.02	0.16	0.08	-0.08	-0.05
Spain	-0.20	-0.47	-0.02	-0.01	0.66	0.31	0.02	-0.05	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.04	0.10
Sweden	1.13	-2.28	0.02	0.00	1.42	0.99	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.05	-0.02	-0.04	0.01
Uk	1.62	-2.65	-0.02	-0.05	0.43	0.23	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	-0.04	0.04	0.06
Denmark	5.43	-1.03	0.07	0.03	3.87	3.33	-0.03	-0.03	-0.04	0.01	0.11	-0.01	-0.03	0.04
Ireland	8.97	-2.19	0.06	-0.03	0.32	0.16	-0.06	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	0.20	-0.02	-0.07	0.08
France	1.90	1.10	0.03	0.00	0.73	-0.04	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.00	-0.05

Note: Data from the ESS is from 2014 (for Spain, Italy and the UK from 2012). Values show the differences in the mean values of the respective categories between the INVEDUC and the ESS survey. Differences are calculated with and without using weights (Table 2.A in the online appendix shows the mean values of the respective variables in both surveys, including standard errors and confidence intervals). The table shows that the deviations between both surveys with regard to average demographic characteristics are only minor. The weights effectively reduce these differences and thus account for sampling selectivity. Note, however, that not all of the values are strictly comparable. As the dates of fieldwork differ between both surveys, this may in particular contribute to remaining differences between the surveys with regard to employment status. Also the wording of the questions for employment status and years of education differ between the surveys, which may be responsible for some minor deviations. For example, in the INVEDUC survey it is asked at what age respondents completed their full-time education. The ESS directly asks for completed years of education. Overall, however, this comparison demonstrates that the representativeness of the INVEDUC sample with regard to core demographic variables is comparable to the high-quality sample of the ESS.

Table 2.A. Comparison of mean values in the INVEDUC survey and the ESS2012/2014.

Age	INVEDUC survey (unweighted)				INVEDUC survey (weighted)				ESS2012/2014 (unweighted)				ESS2012/2014 (weighted)			
	Mean	SE	95% CI		Mean	SE	95% CI		Mean	SE	95% CI		Mean	SE	95% CI	
Germany	56.36	0.41	55.56	57.17	50.02	0.74	48.56	51.47	51.14	0.32	50.50	51.77	50.61	0.34	49.94	51.28
Italy	56.20	0.47	55.29	57.11	50.18	0.92	48.37	51.99	47.93	0.59	46.77	49.08	47.93	0.59	46.77	49.08
Spain	48.22	0.48	47.28	49.16	47.97	0.90	46.21	49.72	48.42	0.41	47.62	49.22	48.44	0.41	47.63	49.24
Sweden	51.89	0.55	50.80	52.97	48.48	0.69	47.13	49.83	50.76	0.46	49.85	51.67	50.76	0.46	49.85	51.67
UK	54.17	0.48	53.23	55.11	47.47	0.68	46.14	48.81	52.55	0.39	51.78	53.33	50.12	0.44	49.26	50.99
Denmark	55.05	0.54	53.99	56.12	48.59	0.76	47.11	50.08	49.62	0.48	48.69	50.56	49.62	0.48	48.69	50.56
Ireland	59.03	0.50	58.04	60.02	45.20	0.81	43.62	46.78	50.06	0.37	49.34	50.78	47.39	0.40	46.62	48.17
France	52.86	0.53	51.81	53.90	48.70	0.82	47.10	50.30	50.95	0.42	50.13	51.77	47.59	0.43	46.75	48.43
Female																
Germany	0.49	0.01	0.47	0.52	0.51	0.02	0.47	0.55	0.49	0.01	0.47	0.51	0.49	0.01	0.47	0.51
Italy	0.58	0.02	0.55	0.61	0.52	0.02	0.48	0.57	0.51	0.02	0.48	0.55	0.51	0.02	0.48	0.55
Spain	0.50	0.02	0.47	0.53	0.51	0.02	0.47	0.55	0.52	0.01	0.49	0.54	0.52	0.01	0.49	0.54
Sweden	0.52	0.02	0.49	0.55	0.51	0.02	0.47	0.54	0.50	0.01	0.48	0.53	0.50	0.01	0.48	0.53
UK	0.55	0.01	0.52	0.58	0.51	0.02	0.48	0.55	0.57	0.01	0.55	0.59	0.57	0.01	0.54	0.59
Denmark	0.56	0.02	0.52	0.59	0.51	0.02	0.47	0.55	0.48	0.01	0.46	0.51	0.48	0.01	0.46	0.51
Ireland	0.60	0.02	0.57	0.63	0.51	0.03	0.46	0.56	0.54	0.01	0.52	0.56	0.54	0.01	0.52	0.57
France	0.55	0.02	0.52	0.58	0.52	0.02	0.48	0.56	0.52	0.01	0.50	0.55	0.52	0.01	0.50	0.55
Years of education																
Germany	15.29	0.10	15.09	15.50	14.92	0.13	14.67	15.17	14.29	0.06	14.17	14.40	14.26	0.07	14.13	14.39
Italy	13.08	0.14	12.80	13.37	12.64	0.16	12.33	12.96	12.59	0.17	12.26	12.93	12.59	0.17	12.26	12.93
Spain	13.01	0.13	12.76	13.26	12.62	0.17	12.28	12.96	12.35	0.13	12.09	12.60	12.31	0.13	12.05	12.56

Sweden	14.68	0.15	14.39	14.98	14.25	0.15	13.95	14.54	13.26	0.09	13.09	13.43	13.26	0.09	13.09	13.43
UK	13.73	0.11	13.53	13.94	13.65	0.11	13.43	13.87	13.30	0.08	13.15	13.45	13.42	0.09	13.24	13.59
Denmark	17.19	0.16	16.89	17.50	16.65	0.20	16.26	17.03	13.32	0.13	13.07	13.57	13.32	0.13	13.07	13.57
Ireland	14.10	0.12	13.86	14.34	14.19	0.17	13.85	14.53	13.78	0.07	13.64	13.93	14.03	0.07	13.88	14.17
France	13.61	0.11	13.40	13.82	12.91	0.12	12.68	13.15	12.88	0.09	12.70	13.06	12.96	0.10	12.75	13.16
Unemployed																
Germany	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.04
Italy	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.09	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.11	0.12	0.01	0.10	0.15	0.12	0.01	0.10	0.15
Spain	0.17	0.01	0.15	0.20	0.10	0.01	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.01	0.14	0.17	0.16	0.01	0.14	0.17
Sweden	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.05
UK	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.05	0.07
Denmark	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06
Ireland	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.11
France	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.09	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.09
Student																
Germany	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.06	0.08
Italy	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.09	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.09
Spain	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.08
Sweden	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.08	0.01	0.07	0.10	0.08	0.01	0.07	0.10
UK	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06
Denmark	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.13	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.11
Ireland	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.04	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.09
France	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.08	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.06
Retired																
Germany	0.36	0.01	0.33	0.38	0.27	0.02	0.24	0.30	0.26	0.01	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.01	0.23	0.27
Italy	0.36	0.02	0.33	0.39	0.28	0.02	0.24	0.31	0.20	0.01	0.17	0.23	0.20	0.01	0.17	0.23
Spain	0.16	0.01	0.14	0.18	0.18	0.02	0.15	0.22	0.18	0.01	0.16	0.19	0.18	0.01	0.16	0.19

Sweden	0.30	0.01	0.27	0.33	0.23	0.01	0.20	0.26	0.25	0.01	0.23	0.27	0.25	0.01	0.23	0.27
UK	0.35	0.01	0.32	0.37	0.24	0.01	0.21	0.26	0.32	0.01	0.31	0.34	0.28	0.01	0.26	0.30
Denmark	0.38	0.02	0.35	0.41	0.25	0.02	0.22	0.28	0.26	0.01	0.24	0.29	0.26	0.01	0.24	0.29
Ireland	0.42	0.02	0.38	0.45	0.15	0.01	0.12	0.17	0.21	0.01	0.20	0.23	0.16	0.01	0.15	0.18
France	0.35	0.02	0.32	0.38	0.28	0.02	0.25	0.31	0.31	0.01	0.29	0.33	0.22	0.01	0.20	0.24
Working full-time																
Germany	0.43	0.01	0.41	0.46	0.47	0.02	0.43	0.50	0.46	0.01	0.44	0.48	0.45	0.01	0.44	0.47
Italy	0.37	0.02	0.34	0.40	0.40	0.02	0.35	0.44	0.45	0.02	0.41	0.48	0.45	0.02	0.41	0.48
Spain	0.44	0.02	0.41	0.47	0.49	0.02	0.45	0.54	0.40	0.01	0.38	0.42	0.40	0.01	0.38	0.42
Sweden	0.48	0.02	0.45	0.51	0.53	0.02	0.49	0.56	0.52	0.01	0.49	0.54	0.52	0.01	0.49	0.54
UK	0.39	0.01	0.37	0.42	0.44	0.02	0.40	0.47	0.35	0.01	0.33	0.37	0.37	0.01	0.35	0.40
Denmark	0.47	0.02	0.44	0.50	0.54	0.02	0.50	0.58	0.50	0.01	0.48	0.53	0.50	0.01	0.48	0.53
Ireland	0.28	0.01	0.25	0.30	0.43	0.03	0.38	0.49	0.34	0.01	0.32	0.36	0.36	0.01	0.34	0.38
France	0.45	0.02	0.42	0.48	0.46	0.02	0.42	0.50	0.45	0.01	0.43	0.48	0.52	0.01	0.49	0.54

Table 3.A. Number of interviews and response rate across countries.

Country	Number of interviews	Response rate (%)
Denmark	1,000	36
France	1,003	28
Germany	1,500	26
Ireland	1,000	20
Italy	1,002	28
Spain	1,000	24
Sweden	1,100	33
United Kingdom	1,300	21
N =	8,905	≈ 27

Table 4.A. Preferences towards education spending in general and preferences towards spending on pre-school and early childhood education (cross tabulation; relative cell frequencies; N=8,729).

		Pre-school and early childhood education					Total
		Spend much less	Spend less	The same	Spend more	spend much more	
Education	Spend much less	0.08	0.03	0.13	0.09	0.07	0.40
	Spend less	0.06	0.41	0.89	0.47	0.11	1.95
	Spend the same as now	0.24	1.98	13.01	6.24	0.65	22.13
	Spend more	0.26	2.74	24.03	27.35	3.56	57.94
	Spend much more	0.14	0.49	4.71	7.68	4.56	17.57
	Total		0.78	5.66	42.78	41.83	8.96

Table 5.A. Preferences towards education spending in general and preferences towards spending on general school education (cross tabulation; relative cell frequencies; N=8,752).

		General school education					Total
		Spend much less	Spend less	The same	Spend more	spend much more	
Education	Spend much less	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.40
	Spend less	0.03	0.42	0.82	0.58	0.07	1.93
	Spend the same as now	0.03	0.73	14.24	6.66	0.47	22.13
	Spend more	0.06	0.71	16.72	36.29	4.23	58.00
	Spend much more	0.08	0.09	2.62	8.50	6.25	17.54
	Total		0.29	2.00	34.47	52.14	11.11

Table 6.A. Preferences towards education spending in general and preferences towards spending on vocational education and training (cross tabulation; relative cell frequencies; N=8,731).

		Vocational education and training					Total
		Spend much less	Spend less	The same	Spend more	spend much more	
Education	Spend much less	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.13	0.15	0.40
	Spend less	0.01	0.33	0.52	0.88	0.19	1.94
	Spend the same as now	0.09	0.89	10.24	9.88	1.03	22.14
	Spend more	0.18	1.66	18.71	33.25	4.20	58.01
	Spend much more	0.09	0.36	3.92	8.52	4.63	17.51
	Total	0.41	3.26	33.46	52.66	10.21	100.00

Table 7.A. Preferences towards education spending in general and preferences towards spending on higher education (cross tabulation; relative cell frequencies; N=8,710).

		Universities and other higher education					Total
		Spend much less	Spend less	The same	Spend more	spend much more	
Education	Spend much less	0.08	0.13	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.40
	Spend less	0.08	0.67	0.72	0.41	0.06	1.94
	Spend the same as now	0.20	2.11	14.98	4.50	0.36	22.15
	Spend more	0.18	2.96	22.30	29.41	3.07	57.92
	Spend much more	0.20	0.48	3.62	8.30	4.99	17.59
	Total	0.73	6.35	41.72	42.70	8.50	100.00

Table 8.A. Ratio number of unemployed vs. number of full-time employed respondents.

	N unemployed / N full-time employed
Germany	0.05
France	0.11
United Kingdom	0.07
Ireland	0.14
Sweden	0.05
Denmark	0.05
Spain	0.39
Italy	0.20

Table 9.A. Spending preferences by employment status (unemployed N=414; full-time employed N=3444); share of respondents demanding more spending.

	Education		Health care		Assist poor		Pensions		Families	
	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.
Germany	0.77	0.86	0.25	0.55	0.62	0.43	0.77	0.44	0.59	0.61
France	0.77	0.57	0.76	0.51	0.72	0.43	0.73	0.58	0.55	0.28
United Kingdom	0.57	0.67	0.57	0.72	0.74	0.46	0.61	0.54	0.76	0.41
Ireland	0.93	0.79	0.90	0.74	0.86	0.52	0.72	0.44	0.82	0.49
Sweden	0.86	0.75	0.70	0.83	0.30	0.45	0.68	0.61	0.41	0.36
Denmark	0.72	0.63	0.66	0.62	0.61	0.45	0.17	0.28	0.49	0.22
Spain	0.93	0.88	0.89	0.87	0.77	0.78	0.67	0.61	0.80	0.71
Italy	0.78	0.91	0.87	0.69	0.70	0.73	0.44	0.61	0.94	0.77

Table 9.A.(continued)

	Environment		Labor market		Unemployment		Defence	
	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.
Germany	0.35	0.52	0.53	0.28	0.59	0.19	0.17	0.11
France	0.60	0.42	0.67	0.52	0.34	0.12	0.40	0.21
United Kingdom	0.50	0.41	0.60	0.41	0.42	0.11	0.29	0.30
Ireland	0.47	0.42	0.70	0.43	0.58	0.15	0.20	0.12
Sweden	0.37	0.59	0.68	0.43	0.52	0.43	0.46	0.32
Denmark	0.27	0.46	0.08	0.19	0.55	0.16	0.19	0.09
Spain	0.54	0.46	0.78	0.63	0.62	0.46	0.16	0.08
Italy	0.64	0.70	0.82	0.53	0.62	0.40	0.19	0.12

Table 10.A. Spending preferences by employment status (unemployed N=433; full-time employed N=3594); share of respondents demanding more spending.

	Preschool & ECEC		General		Vocational		Higher education	
	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.	unempl.	empl.
Germany	0.87	0.67	0.80	0.74	0.45	0.47	0.47	0.56
France	0.22	0.28	0.35	0.42	0.65	0.65	0.35	0.36
United Kingdom	0.56	0.44	0.46	0.60	0.62	0.51	0.37	0.43
Ireland	0.42	0.52	0.58	0.63	0.71	0.49	0.54	0.52
Sweden	0.57	0.64	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.59	0.55	0.40
Denmark	0.34	0.47	0.73	0.55	0.49	0.65	0.69	0.38
Spain	0.56	0.57	0.70	0.70	0.68	0.74	0.72	0.68
Italy	0.52	0.54	0.64	0.72	0.79	0.74	0.60	0.61