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**SOEP** Survey Papers  
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## SOEP-Core v36 – BIOIMMIG

Selin Kara, Diana Schacht, Antonia Scherz, Lisa Ulrich

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2021

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## 1 Introduction Bioimmig Data

The variables contained in BIOIMMIG deal with questions related to the situation of immigrants and their descendants in Germany. These questions concern, for example, their reasons for immigrating to Germany, their living conditions upon arrival, their plans to return to the country of origin, and whether they have relatives in the country of origin. The dataset originally contained information collected with the biography questionnaire in wave M (1996) and its later versions. In 2014 (BE), it was expanded by the new variable BIREASON. The data available in this file are longitudinal. That is to say, the same variable name refers to different time periods, which can be differentiated by the variable SYEAR ranging from 1984 to 2019. Thus, for every respondent included in the dataset, there are as many person-years as the number of years in which the respondent completed interviews. The unit of observation is therefore person-years. The sample size of the dataset is defined using the following criteria:

- First, the dataset includes only person-year combinations for those years in which SOEP respondents completed a questionnaire (NETTO). This refers not only to the personal and youth questionnaires but also to the biography questionnaires. In other words, at least one of these interviews had to be realized in a given year, so that the person-year combination was included in the dataset. At the same time, the dataset excludes person-year-observations from children and individuals who were not part of a SOEP household in a given year (for more information, see the PPATHL documentation on the current wave survey status NETTO).
- Second, all available information related to the BIOIMMIG variables is collected and assigned to the person-year observations. Thereafter, all persons without valid information on any BIOIMMIG variable were excluded from the dataset.
- Third, all respondents whose only valid information was on the percentage of foreigners in class BISCGCF (How Many Pupils Foreign) were deleted from the dataset. Most information in the BIOIMMIG dataset comes from foreigner-specific questions or questionnaires, while information on BISCGCF comes from a question given to all SOEP participants aged 16 to 17 (JUGENDL) and those who completed a general biography questionnaire (BIOL). Therefore, if the only valid information in the BIOIMMIG dataset was on the variable BISCGCF, it can be assumed that the person does not have a migration background.
- Fourth, all respondents who mentioned to be east German were excluded. This corresponds to value 1 on the variable (BIIMGRP).

Ultimately, this leaves a sample size of **489,184** person-years and **72,774** individuals in the BIOIMMIG dataset (see Table 1). However, the BIOIMMIG sample cannot be equated with the overall population of immigrants and their descendants in the SOEP, since the BIOIMMIG dataset only includes respondents who gave information on one or more of the BIOIMMIG variables. Research on respondents with a direct or indirect migration background should therefore include a careful check of the MIGBACK variable in PPATHL to determine whether and to what extent the target population is covered in the BIOIMMIG dataset.

Table 1: Sample size of the BIOIMMIG dataset

	Persons absolut	Persons in %	Person-years absolut	Persons-years in %
PPFAD: Original sample size	149,565	100 %	1,164,296	100%
Interview years: Sample after keeping only those years in which a questionnaire was completed based on \$NETTO	84,911	57 %	721,987	62%
BIOIMMIG information: Sample after excluding all those without valid information in any year of participation	81,087	54 %	532,444	46%
BISCGCF: Sample after excluding all respondents whose only valid BIOIMMIG information is the share of foreigners in class	73,026	49%	492,797	42%
BIIMGRP: Sample after excluding all east Germans	72,774	49%	489,184	42%

Source: SOEP v36

### Differences between v35 and v36 BIOIMMIG dataset

Originally BIOIMMIG has been generated appending each new wave of data to the data of the previous years. This practice bears potential for errors since the SOEP includes a large amount of variables that need to be comparable over time. In order to minimize this potential for error, v36 of BIOIMMIG is the first version of the dataset that has been generated by using longitudinal data. All variables generated for BIOIMMIG have been checked and reviewed in connection with this changeover from wave-specific to longitudinal data. As a result, the number of observations in the BIOIMMIG dataset increased significantly (58% as compared to v35).

		BIOIMMIG (v36)		
		<i>Included</i>	<i>Excluded</i>	<i>Total v36</i>
<b>BIOIMMIG (v35)</b>	<i>Included</i>	202,036 (100%, 41%)	4,304 (49%)	493,036 (100%)
	<i>Excluded</i>	287,148 (58%)	-	-
	<i>Total v35</i>	206,340 (100%)	-	-

Source: SOEP v36

On one hand, some reasons led to the inclusion of 287,148 person-years in 2019:

- The sample size increased due to respondents completing an interview in 2018, adding new person-year combinations to the dataset. These cases include not only respondents who already gave interviews in previous years but also new respondents who entered the SOEP in 2019.
- Additional cases are included due to new positive values on at least one of the relevant BIOIMMIG variables. This information is filled up for all the years in which the person participated in the SOEP survey and hence adds up new person-years.
- Due to the changeover previously overlooked variables have been included

On the other hand, some reasons led to an exclusion of 4,304 person-years in 2019:

- A respondent moved out of a temporary housing accommodation between 2018 and 2019. Since BIOIMMIG uses the most recent information for wave specific indicators and no BIOIMMIG variable in 2019 indicates that the person belongs to the BIOIMMIG population in 2019, the case is excluded from the dataset.
- Up to now it was not clearly defined whether home country or foreign country was implied for the variables BIRELH(P/GP/C/BS/DR/SP/FR/MI). The corresponding questions did not match the variable label in the documentation. The decision to only use the home country leads to a significant reduction of observations on the value of the respective variables.

### Sources used to generate the BIOIMMIG dataset

---

The BIOIMMIG dataset is a dataset where all migration specific information is recorded. The dataset is build based on migration specific questions which are asked throughout individual and biography questionnaires in different samples. As new samples and their corresponding questionnaires have been surveyed, this information has been feed into the BIOIMMIG dataset. As of 2020 the sources of the BIOIMMIG dataset are as follows:

- Migration specific questions that have been collected through the biography questionnaires were added to BIOIMMIG. The biography questionnaires which are recorded in the BIOLELA dataset (from 1987-1995) and \$LELA datasets (since 1996) have been integrated into the long-format BIOL dataset.
- Migration specific questions that have been asked in the individual questionnaires between 1984 (wave A) and 1995 (wave L) are recorded in the \$PAUSL dataset. From 1996 (wave M) onwards, migration specific questions from individual questionnaires have been recorded in the \$P dataset. The information recorded in the \$P and \$PAUSL dataset have been integrated into one long-format dataset, called PL. A respondent's answers to migration specific questions in the individual questionnaire are added to the biographical data.
- In 1994 and 1995 (wave K and L) the SOEP's first immigrant samples (Samples D1 & D2) have been created and information from those specific questionnaires have been added to the BIOIMMIG dataset in 1996.

- In 2000 (wave Q) the SOEP started sampling youth. Information from the youth datasets (\$JUGEND) contain similar information to \$LELA but for 16- and 17-year-olds, were incorporated into the BIOIMMIG dataset. The initial variables from the \$JUGEND dataset are available in the dataset JUGENDL. In any given year, a person could complete either a youth or a biography questionnaire depending on their age. Thus, information is available in either the \$JUGEND or the \$LELA dataset but never in both.
- In 2013 (wave BD), the IAB-SOEP migration samples (Samples M1 & M2) have been started in order to collect a large number of interviews with migrants in Germany. Information from those samples' questionnaires have been added to BIOIMMIG.
- In 2016 and 2017 (wave BG and BH), three refugee samples (Samples M3, M4, M5) were added to the SOEP survey. The questionnaires of these samples varied slightly from the regular individual and biography questionnaires as they were tailored to capture the specific circumstances of refugees. The information from samples M3-M5 have also been added to the BIOIMMIG dataset as refugees are included in the migrant group.
- In 2017, all the data collected through migrant and refugee samples were integrated into the long-format PL and BIOL datasets.
- Since 2018 no new dataset has been added as a source for BIOIMMIG.

## 2 Updating the BIOIMMIG dataset

### Updating the yearly information collected

Most of the information included in the BIOIMMIG dataset remains constant over time, which usually is only asked once within the SOEP, e.g., a respondent's main reason for coming to Germany. The respondent's answers are assumed to be constant and therefore valid over time. In accordance, we filled in time-constant information for all person-years in the dataset. We proceeded in the same manner with information that was given more than once and that remained consistent over time - for example, when a respondent mentioned that he / she wanted to stay in Germany permanently, first in the youth and later in the biography questionnaire.

However, some respondents' answers varied over time on a small number of questions, which lead to the following variables: BISCGER (school in Germany), BISCGCF (number of foreign students), BIEXPR (expectations from Germany), BIEXPRAC (acceptance by co-workers), BIRELH (family abroad), BIRELHC2 (children living abroad), BIRELHS2 (spouse in Germany), BISTAY (desire to stay in Germany), BISTAYY (planned duration of stay). For these variables, it can be assumed that answers and thus values may indeed vary over time. For instance, a person's desire to stay in Germany may change over time. Thus, both (or more) pieces of information are considered valid for the subsequent years until a different answer is given, and this answer is again considered valid until the next different answer is given. Accordingly, we adapted our procedure of filling in the values for the years in between differing answers. The logic of this procedure is demonstrated for the variable BIRELH (family in home country) in Table 2.

*Table 2: Data structure after filling in time-varying information over the years (fictitious data)*

PERSNR	HHNR	HHNRAKT	SYEAR	BIRELH	BISTAYY
101	19	19	2000	1	10
101	19	19	2001	1	9
101	19	19	2002	1	8
101	19	19	2003	2	7
101	19	19	2004	2	6
101	19	19	2005	2	5

Source: SOEP v36

In this fictitious example, the person replied in 2000 that she had relatives in her home country, but in 2003 her answer changed to *no relatives in home country*. Therefore, the subsequent years are coded accordingly. The number of years she wanted to stay in Germany (BISTAYY) was also adjusted accordingly. The procedure was also adapted for the variable BISTAYY (planned length of stay in Germany in years) which varies per se across time. Therefore, the number of years indicated in one year is logically decremented in the subsequent years. For instance, a planned stay of 10 more years in Germany in 2000 would have been adjusted to nine more years in 2001 (also see BISTAYY in Table 2).

### Missing values

Four missing values were assigned to the variables in the BIOIMMIG dataset as shown in Table 3. -1 (No answer) is assigned to respondents who received a BIOIMMIG question but did not answer it. If no information is available for a respondent on one variable, the variable is set to -2 (Does not apply) for all years. The value -5 (Not included in this version of questionnaire) is assigned to respondents who did not receive the sample-specific question. This applies mainly to respondents whose samples were included retrospectively in a dataset, such as respondents to FID (“Families in Germany”) or respondents given variations of the BIOIMMIG questions such as those in the migration samples in 2016 and 2017. The Value -8 is only applicable to datasets in long format. This missing value applies, when a question isn’t part of the survey program in a given year. The missing values were filled in across person-years according to the procedure described previously.

Table 3: Missing values

Value	Value label (English)
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year
-5	Not included in this version of questionnaire
-2	Does not apply
-1	No answer

Source: SOEP v36

Addaptions had to be made to the variables BISTAY (desire to stay in Germany) and BISTAYY (desired duration of stay). If a respondent replied in a given year that he or she wanted to stay (forever) or (for less than a year) on the respective BISTAY question, then the BISTAYY variable was coded -2 (does not apply). However, if a respondent mentioned in a subsequent year that he / she only wanted to stay in Germany for a specific period of time, the respective information was used to code the values of BISTAY and BISTAYY. Table 4 shows a fictitious

example of a respondent changing his/her intention to stay in Germany.

Table 4: Example of inconsistent responses over time to question about desires to stay in Germany (fictitious data)

PERSNR	HHNR	HHNRAKT	SYEAR	BISTAY	BISTAYY
103	21	21	2000	2	10
103	21	21	2001	2	9
103	21	21	2002	1	-2
103	21	21	2003	1	-2
103	21	21	2004	2	15
103	21	21	2005	2	14

### Using the BIOIMMIG file

The BIOIMMIG file can be used for cross-sectional or panel data analysis. The dataset is provided in *long* format but can easily be reshaped to *wide* format or, if necessary, be combined with cross-sectional data by simply selecting the relevant year via SYEAR in the BIOIMMIG dataset. Relevant variables for merging other SOEP datasets provided in long format to the BIOIMMIG dataset are PID, HID, CID and SYEAR. For merging datasets provided in wide format first use SYEAR to select the cases of the relevant year in the BIOIMMIG dataset and then use PID (PERSNR) and HID (HHNRAKT) as merge variables. For example, merging the BIOIMMIG dataset for the year 1984 with another dataset could be achieved by proceeding in the following manner in Stata:

1. **Open** the BIOIMMIG dataset for 1984:

```
use bioimmig if syear==1984
```

2. **Rename** variables with wave-specific information:

```
rename bicamp camp1984
rename bicampw campw1984
rename (hid pid) (hhnrakt persnr)
```

3. **Save** IDs & renamed variables in a temporary file:

```
sort hhnrakt persnr
keep hhnrakt persnr syear camp1984 campw1984
save bioimmig1984.dta, replace
```

## 3 Variables, Values and Sources in File BIOIMMIG

### biimgrp – BI: Immigration Group

? There are different judicial principles for moving in to Germany. Which of the following immigrant categories did you belong to when you moved to Germany? (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2016-11/6:lzug02[4317]*)

2	Person Of German Descent From Eastern Europe	30597
3	German Who Lived Abroad	1320

4	Citizen Of EU Country (up to 2009 EC)	7689
5	Asylum seeker, refugee	25091
6	Other Foreigner	23101
-1	No Answer	306
-2	Does not apply	344875
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	56205
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	0

Values correspond to the following question:

To which of the following immigrant categories did you belong to when you first moved to Germany?

Table 5: Variables used to generate *biimgrp*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0020_v1, lb0020_v2, lb0020_v3 lb0013_h lm0020 lm0020i01 lm0020i04 lm0020i05_v1, lm0020i05_v2 lm0020i06 lm0031i01l01 - lm0031i01l10 lm0031i03l01 - lm0031i03l07 lm0031i04l01 - lm0031i04l08 lm0031i07l01_v1, lm0031i07l01_v2 lm0031i07l02_v1, lm0031i07l02_v2 lm0031i07l03_v1, lm0031i07l03_v2 lm0031i07l04 - lm0031i07l09 lm0031i08l01_v1 - lm0031i08l01_v2 lm0031i08l02_v1 - lm0031i08l02_v2 lm0031i08l03_v1 - lm0031i08l03_v2 lm0031i08l04 - lm0031i08l07 lm0031i10l01 - lm0031i10l09
JUGENDL	jl0240
PL	plj0024_h plj0175 plj0006 plj0003

Source: SOEP v36

### biresper – BI: Residence Status

? What is your current residence status? (from: *soep-core/soep-core-2016-ll/7:lstat[4319]*)

? What is your residence status in Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2016-pb-m12-erst/50:lstat\[3949\]](#))

1	Unlimited	26649
2	Temporary	23832
-1	No Answer	251
-2	Does not apply	381495
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	53864
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	3093

Values correspond to following Question:

Is your residence permit/visa for a limited or unlimited period of time?

Table 6: Variables used to generate Biresper

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0021
	lb1240_v1, lb1240_v2
PL	plj0680_v1, plj0680_v2
	plj0722
	plm0365
JUGENDL	jl0246
	jl0445

Source: SOEP v36

### bicamp – BI: Refugee Residence Y,N

? Which of the following would best describe your living situation immediately after moving to Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2014-ll/8;lzugw\[3801\]](#))

1	Yes	25796
2	No	26949
-1	No Answer	296
-2	Does not apply	303779
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	128120
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	4244

Values correspond to following Question:

When you entered the country did you first live in a refugee camp or some other type of temporary housing for immigrants?

Table 7: Variables used to generate Bicamp

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0022
	lb1249
	lr3236
	lr3440
PL	plm0679
HL	hlj0005_h
JUGENDL	jl0253

Source: SOEP v36

### bicampw – BI: Refugee Residence: Weeks

0	26
1	982
2	1508
3	672
4	658
5	159
6	380
7	4
8	141
10	53
12	44
14	14
15	6
16	3
26	3
32	16
36	13
40	12
41	13
-1	17
-2	355763
-5	55557
-8	73140

Values correspond to following Question:

Transitional accomodation: If so, for how many weeks?

Table 10: Variables used to generate Bicampw

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0023
JUGENDL	jl0254

Source: SOEP v36

### bicampm – BI: Refugee Residence: Months

---

0	14
1	1102
2	838
3	575
4	264
5	369
6	988
7	352
8	339
9	280
10	280
11	181
12	1148
13	63
14	183
... (21 rows omitted)	2519
38	13
40	1
42	54
48	71
54	1
60	20
66	2
72	28
77	3
90	8
99	24
-1	158
-2	350757
-5	55557
-8	72992

Values correspond to following Question:  
 Transitional accomodation: If so, for how many months?  
 Table 11: Variables used to generate Bicampm

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0024
JUGENDL	jl0255

&nbsp;

Source: SOEP v36

**biwfam** – BI: Already Had Family In Country

? There are different legal frameworks for immigrating to Germany. What about you: What was your immigration status at the time of your arrival in Germany? (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-113/10:l1z01s1[29143]*)

? There are different legal frameworks for immigrating to Germany. What about you: What was your immigration status at the time of your arrival in Germany? (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-113/44:l3z01s1[29179]*)

? What were your reasons for specifically moving to Germany and not to another country? // Because family members live here (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q079:lgrd1[15078]*)

1	Yes	27715
-1	No Answer	314
-2	Does not apply	222348
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	101926
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	136881

Values correspond to following Question:

When you entered the country did you come as a family member or a person already living in Germany?

Table 12: Variables used to generate Biwfam

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0020_v3
	lb0025
	lb0034
	lm0020
	lm0020i01
	lm0020i05_v1, lm0020i05_v2
	lm0020i06
	lm0031i01l01 - lm0031i01l09
	lm0031i03l01 - lm0031i03l09
	lm0031i04l01 - lm0031i04l09
	lm0031i08l01_v1, lm0031i08l01_v2
	lm0031i08l02_v1, lm0031i08l02_v2
	lm0031i08l03_v1, lm0031i08l03_v2
	lm0031i08l04 - lm0031i08l15
	lm0031i10l01 - lm0031i10l109
	lr3168
	JUGENDL

Source: SOEP v36

**bifamc** – BI: Contacts With Family In Germany

? At your arrival, did you have any support of relatives or acquaintances who already lived in Germany? // Yes, by relatives (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2016-ll/10:lzugunt1[4321]*)

? When you moved to Germany, did you have the help of any relatives or friends who already lived in Germany? // Yes, from relatives (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2016-pb-m12-erst/26:lzugunt1[8460]*)

? Did any relatives or acquaintances who already lived in Germany help you move to Germany? // Yes, relatives (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2016-pb-m34/38:lzugunt1[12237]*)

1	Yes	12513
2	No	7002
-1	No Answer	55
-2	Does not apply	369732
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	99882
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	0

Values correspond to following Question:

Did you have any contacts to relatives in Germany before you entered the country?

Table 13: Variables used to generate Bifamc

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0026
	lb1246
	lb1247_v3
	lb0865
	lb0866
	lm0034
	lb1247_v1, lb1247_v2, lb1247_v4
JUGENDL	jl0257
	jl0256

Source: SOEP v36

**bifamcl** – BI: Moved To Same City,Town As Family

1	Yes	19657
2	No	5385
-1	No Answer	369
-2	Does not apply	356256
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	102530
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0

-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	4987

Values correspond to following Question:

Did you move to the area in Germany where these relatives or friends lived?

Table 14: Variables used to generate Bifamcl

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0027 lm0495i01_v1, lm0495i01_v2
JUGENDL	jl0258

Source: SOEP v36

### birbetr – BI: Reason Migrate: Better

? Which of the following reasons was the main reason for you to come to Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2014-ll/9;zuggr\[4320\]](#))

1	Better Life	6779
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	353525
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73323

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? I wanted a better life. I wanted to live better, to be able to buy more, etc.

Table 15: Variables used to generate Birbetr

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0031

Source: SOEP v36

### birmoney – BI: Reason Migrate: Money

? Which of the following reasons was the main reason for you to come to Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2014-ll/9;zuggr\[4320\]](#))

1	Earn Money	3836
-1	No Answer	0

-2	Does not apply	356399
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73392

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? I wanted to work and earn money in Germany to support my family and save money.

Table 16: Variables used to generate Birmoney

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0032

Source: SOEP v36

### **birfree** – BI: Reason Migrate: Freedom

1	Live In Freedom	5873
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	354369
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73385

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? I wanted freedom

Table 17: Variables used to generate Birfree

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0033

Source: SOEP v36

### **birfam** – BI: Reason Migrate: Family

**?** Which of the following reasons was the main reason for you to come to Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2014-11/9;lzuggr\[4320\]](https://www.diw.de/en/i?idnr=4320))

1	Live With Family	10684
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	349869
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73074

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? I wanted to live with my family

*Table 18: Variables used to generate Birfam*

File	Variable
BIOL	Ib0034

Source: SOEP v36

#### **birpoor** – BI: Reason Migrate: Poor

**?** Which of the following reasons was the main reason for you to come to Germany? (from: *soep-core/soep-core-2014-11/9;lzuggr[4320]*)

1	Poverty In Country Of Origin	3325
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	356863
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73439

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? There was a lot of poverty in my native country.

*Table 19: Variables used to generate Birpoor*

File	Variable
BIOL	Ib0035

Source: SOEP v36

**birwar** – BI: Reason Migrate: War

? Which of the following reasons was the main reason for you to come to Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2014-ll/9;lzuggr\[4320\]](#))

1	War In Country Of Origin	3403
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	356836
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73388

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? I could not live in safety in my native country

Table 20: Variables used to generate Birwar

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0036

Source: SOEP v36

**birjust** – BI: Reason Migrate: Just So

1	Just Live In Germany	6323
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	216983
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	210321

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? I just wanted to live in Germany

Table 21: Variables used to generate Birjust

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0037_h

Source: SOEP v36

### birothr – BI: Reason Migrate: Other

---

? Which of the following reasons was the main reason for you to come to Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2014-ll/9;zuggr\[4320\]](#))

1	Other Reasons	5651
-1	No Answer	373
-2	Does not apply	354347
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	73256

Values correspond to following Question:

There are many possible reasons for moving to Germany. Which of reasons listed here played a part in your decision? Other reasons

Table 22: Variables used to generate Birothr

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0038

Source: SOEP v36

### biexpr – BI: Expectations In Germany

---

1	Yes	14260
2	Partly	7800
3	No, Not At All	771
-1	No Answer	1262
-2	Does not apply	336905
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	72629

Values correspond to following Question:

Were your expectations of Germany fulfilled for the most part?

Table 23: Variables used to generate Biexpr

File	Variable
BIOL	Ib0040

Source: SOEP v36

### biexplv – BI: Expectations: Find Apt

---

1	Harder	5690
2	As Expected	8710
3	Easier	6368
4	Does Not Apply	4296
-1	No Answer	1116
-2	Does not apply	198045
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	209402

Values correspond to following Question:

Which areas were easier or harder than you thought? Finding a place to live

Table 24: Variables used to generate Biexplv

File	Variable
BIOL	Ib0041_h

Source: SOEP v36

### biexplac – BI: Expectations: Accepted by Coworker

---

1	Harder	5297
2	As Expected	8317
3	Easier	3221
4	Does Not Apply	7977
-1	No Answer	1267
-2	Does not apply	198118
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	209430

Values correspond to following Question:

Which areas were easier or harder than you thought? To be accepted by coworkers

Table 26: Variables used to generate Biexprac

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0042_h

Source: SOEP v36

### biexpran – BI: Expectations: Accepted by Neighbor

1	Harder	5879
2	As Expected	10966
3	Easier	3606
4	Does Not Apply	2841
-1	No Answer	1116
-2	Does not apply	199807
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	209412

Values correspond to following Question:

Which areas were easier or harder than you thought? Being accepted by neighbors

Table 27: Variables used to generate Biexpran

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0043_h

Source: SOEP v36

### birelh – BI: Family in Country of Origin

1	Yes	41890
2	No	1855
-1	No Answer	1133
-2	Does not apply	87745
-3	Answer improbable	20
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	32709
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	323832

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

Table 28: Variables used to generate *Birelh*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0044
JUGENDL	jl0262

Source: SOEP v36

### **birelhp** – BI: Family Country of Origin: Parents

? Where does your mother currently live? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q495:lmleb](#) [15490])

? Where does your father currently live? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q503:lvleb](#) [15499])

1	Parents	18633
-1	No Answer	9
-2	Does not apply	12468
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	88093
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	369981

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

Table 29: Variables used to generate *Birelhp*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0045
	lb0078_v1
	lb0079_v1
	lr3213
	lr3215
JUGENDL	jl0263
PL	plj0118_v1
	plj0119_v1
	plj0133_h

Source: SOEP v36

**birelhgp** – BI: Family Country of Origin: Grandparents

1	Grandparents	9051
-1	No Answer	357
-2	Does not apply	159927
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	319849

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

*Table 30: Variables used to generate Birelhgp*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0046
JUGENDL	jl0264
PL	pld0017_v1

*Source: SOEP v36*

**birelhc** – BI: Family Country of Origin: Children

1	Children	1667
-1	No Answer	49
-2	Does not apply	22846
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	94211
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	370411

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

*Table 31: Variables used to generate Birelhc*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0047
	lr3193
	lr3195
	lr3198
	lr3200
	lr3204

File	Variable
	lr3206
	lr3208
	lr3211
PL	plj0641

Source: SOEP v36

### birelhbs – BI: Family Country of Origin: Brother,Sister

1	Brother,Sister	25364
-1	No Answer	123
-2	Does not apply	160856
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	36025
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	266816

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

Table 32: Variables used to generate Birelhbs

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0048
	lr3186
JUGENDL	jl0266
PL	plj0124_v1
	plj0125_v1

Source: SOEP v36

### birelhdr – BI: Family Country of Origin: Distant Relatives

1	Distant Relatives	28206
-1	No Answer	1080
-2	Does not apply	151875
-3	Answer improbable	20
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	34172
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	273831

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

Table 33: Variables used to generate Birelhdr

File	Variable
BOL	lb0049 lr3224
JUGENDL	jl0267
PL	plj0130_v1 plj0645

Source: SOEP v36

### birelhsp – BI: Family Country of Origin: Spouse, Partner

1	Spouse/Fiancee	1708
-1	No Answer	79
-2	Does not apply	202174
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	46965
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	238258

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have family members in the country you come from?

Table 34: Variables used to generate Birelhsp

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0050 lm0224
PL	plm0224 plj0627 plj0630 plj0643

Source: SOEP v36

### birelhfr – BI: Friends: Country of Origin

1	Personal Acquaintance	3783
-1	No Answer	0
-2	Does not apply	165499

-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	319902

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have friends in the country you come from?

*Table 35: Variables used to generate Birelhfr*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0051
JUGENDL	jl0269

Source: SOEP v36

### **birelhmi** – BI: Persons Abroad Bring To Germany

1	Yes	2740
2	No	4708
-1	No Answer	72
-2	Does not apply	16504
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	41608
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	423552

Values correspond to following Question:

Of those mentioned above, do some want to come to Germany or would you like to bring them to Germany?

*Table 36: Variables used to generate Birelhmi*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0052_h
	lr3194
	lr3197
	lr3199
	lr3201
	lr3205
	lr3207
	lr3210
	lr3212
JUGENDL	jl0270

File	Variable
PL	plj0628 plj0631

Source: SOEP v36

### birelhs2 – BI: Spouse In Germany

1	Germany, Here In HH	48167
2	Germany, Not In HH	2496
3	Not In Germany	3082
-1	No Answer	47
-2	Does not apply	10746
-3	Answer improbable	1
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	118891
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	305754

Values correspond to following Question: Does your spouse live in Germany? Values correspond to following Question:

Does your spouse/partner live in Germany?

Table 37: Variables used to generate Birelhs2

File	Variable
PL	plj0093 plj0627 plj0630

Source: SOEP v36

### birelhc2 – BI: Underage Children Not In Germany

1	Yes	8566
2	No	219517
-1	No Answer	153
-2	Does not apply	235930
-3	Answer improbable	1
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	22639
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	2378

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you have children under 18 who do not live in Germany?

Table 38: Variables used to generate Birelhc2

File	Variable
PL	plj0097
	plj0159
	plj0099
	plj0642
	plj0137_h

Source: SOEP v36

### bigoback – BI: Go Back Home

1	Yes, Definitely	416
2	Yes, Probably	947
3	Probably Not	2031
4	No, Definitely Not	6849
-1	No Answer	122
-2	Does not apply	158949
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	319870

Values correspond to following Question:

Do you plan to return to live in your country of origin?

Table 39: Variables used to generate Bigoback

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0053
JUGENDL	jl0271

Source: SOEP v36

### bistay – BI: Desire To Stay In Germany

**?** Do you want to stay in Germany forever? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q106:pnat10\[15113\]](#))

**?** How long would you like to stay in Germany? (from: [soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q107:pnat11\[15114\]](#))

1	One Year Maximum	1627
2	Several Years, Specifically...	36812
3	Stay In Germany Permanently	121390
-1	No Answer	816
-2	Does not apply	203787
-3	Answer improbable	1
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	89521
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	25
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	35205

Values correspond to following Question:

How long would you like to stay in Germany?

Table 40: Variables used to generate Bistay

File	Variable
PL	plj0084
	plj0085_v1, plj0085_v2
	plj0086

Source: SOEP v36

### bistay – BI: Years Desired To Stay In Germany

**?** How many years would you like to stay in Germany? // years (from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q108:pnat12[15115])

1	2087
2	2505
3	2333
4	2094
5	2243
6	1326
7	1232
8	1340
9	1463
10	2066
11	363
12	401
13	418
14	459
15	654
... (36 rows omitted)	3271
58	1
59	1
60	3
61	1

65	1
66	1
85	1
89	2
98	1
99	1
-1	1650
-2	460699
-3	2
-5	1527
-8	1038

Values correspond to following Question:  
How many years would you like to stay in Germany?  
*Table 41: Variables used to generate Bistayy*

File	Variable
PL	plj0087

Source: SOEP v36

### biscger - BI: Attended School In Germany

- ? Where did you last attend school? (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-ll3/144:lsab3[29276]*)
- ? What federal state is your last school located in today? (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-ll3/148:lschbund[29279]*)
- ? Was the last school you attended in Germany or in another country? (*from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-pb-m345-erst/Q282:lsab3\_r[15291]*)

1	Yes	282268
2	No	87369
-1	No Answer	855
-2	Does not apply	113658
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	831
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	4203

Values correspond to following Question:  
Did you attend school in Germany?  
*Table 42: Variables used to generate Biscger*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0028 lb0186_v1 - lb0186_v3

File	Variable
	lb0405
	lb1375
JUGENDL	jl0259

Source: SOEP v36

### biscgrad – BI: Which Grade, Year In German School

1	6905
2	611
3	622
4	592
5	698
6	672
7	587
8	739
9	610
10	376
11	139
12	50
13	73
-1	427
-2	347556
-5	55557
-8	72970

Values correspond to following Question:

What grade were you in when you started school in Germany?

Table 43: Variables used to generate Biscgrad

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0029
	lb0406
JUGENDL	jl0260

Source: SOEP v36

### biscgerc – BI: Attended Special Foreigner Prep Class

1	Yes	4603
2	No	12742
-1	No Answer	103
-2	Does not apply	343244
-3	Answer improbable	0

-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	55557
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	72935

Values correspond to following Question:

Did you attend a special preparatory class for foreigners in Germany ahead of time?

Table 44: Variables used to generate *Biscgerc*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0030
	lb0542
PL	plj0030
JUGENDL	jl0261

Source: SOEP v36

### **biscgc** – BI: Also German Pupils In Class

1	Yes	6065
2	No	293
-1	No Answer	17
-2	Does not apply	83857
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	78157
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	320795

Values correspond to following Question:

Were German students in your class in the last grade of school you attended?

Table 45: Variables used to generate *Biscgc*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0054
PL	plj0049

Source: SOEP v36

### **biscgcf** – BI: How Many Pupils Foreign

 (from: *soep-core/soep-core-2019-ju-lgb/41:jausl[28931]*)

? If you think back to the last grade of school you attended: How many of your fellow students or their parents were not from Germany? (from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-ju3/41:jausl [28912])

? Thinking about your classmates in the last year of school you attended, or your current classmates if you're still in school: How many of your classmates were/are not from Germany or have parents who were/are not from Germany—in other words, how many have a family history of migration? (from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-ll3/151:lsab10[29282])

1	All	1797
2	Most	6905
3	Around 1/2	8984
4	Around 1/4	15166
5	Less Than 1/4	85126
6	No One	154564
-1	No Answer	3657
-2	Does not apply	129661
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	83324
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	0

Values correspond to following Question:

How many of your fellow students were foreigners?

Table 46: Variables used to generate *Biscgcf*

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0055
	lb0194_h
PL	plj0050
JUGENDL	jl0176_h

Source: SOEP v36

### **biscgfn** – BI: Mix Of Nationalities In Class

1	Only My Nationality	196
2	Mixed	92
-1	No Answer	3
-2	Does not apply	168057
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	0
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	320836

Values correspond to following Question:

Were only children of your nationality in your class, or was there a mix of nationalities?

Table 47: Variables used to generate Biscgcfn

File	Variable
BIOL	lb0056

Source: SOEP v36

### bireason – BI: Main Reason Immigration To Ger. (since 2014)

? Which of the following was your main reason for moving to Germany? (from: soep-core/soep-core-2019-ll3/53:zuggr[29187])

1	Family Reasons/Partnership	10010
2	Economic Reasons	6267
3	Political Reasons	2398
4	Other Reasons	1581
-1	No Answer	129
-2	Does not apply	22303
-3	Answer improbable	0
-4	Inadmissible multiple response	0
-5	Not included in this version of the questionnaire	39129
-6	Version of questionnaire with modified filtering	0
-7	Only available in less restricted edition	0
-8	Question not part of the survey program this year	407367

Values correspond to following Question:

Which of the following was your main reason for moving to Germany?

Table 48: Variables used to generate Bireason

File	Variable
BIOL	lb1245_v1, lb1245_v2

Source: SOEP v36

### syear – Year, Survey Year

1984	4878
1985	4462
1986	4421
1987	4459
1988	4369
1989	4349
1990	5750

1991	5767
1992	5794
1993	5855
1994	6099
1995	6491
1996	6405
1997	6293
1998	6652
... (6 rows omitted)	82927
2005	14336
2006	15682
2007	14932
2008	14040
2009	14878
2010	21598
2011	23785
2012	23634
2013	26738
2014	23504
2015	23274
2016	25705
2017	28918
2018	26751
2019	26438

Survey Year

**hid** – Current HH Number for SYEAR

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60	1
167	15
175	47
213	13
230	39
396	42
418	15
477	27
523	36
531	17
566	29
574	28
604	49
647	13
728	14
... (43960 rows omitted)	488758
3923568	6
3923576	2
3923584	7
3923614	3
3923649	2

3923746	3
3923762	3
3923789	2
3923797	1
3923800	5
3923835	3
3923878	1
3923908	1
3923916	1
3923967	1

ID variable Households

cid - Original Household Number

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60	84
167	15
175	47
213	13
230	72
280	4
396	42
418	15
477	27
523	36
531	35
566	29
574	28
582	29
590	30
... (38009 rows omitted)	488631
3923487	5
3923541	3
3923550	1
3923568	6
3923576	2
3923584	7
3923614	3
3923649	2
3923746	3
3923762	3
3923789	2
3923797	1
3923800	5
3923835	3
3923878	1

ID variable Households

pid – Never Changing Person ID

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601	19
1602	12
1603	3
1701	24
1704	23
2101	13
2301	36
2302	35
2305	1
3901	21
3902	21
4101	15
4701	27
5201	36
5302	22
... (72744 rows omitted)	488851
39235804	2
39236101	3
39236401	1
39236402	1
39237401	1
39237402	2
39237601	1
39237603	1
39237604	1
39237801	2
39237901	1
39238001	3
39238002	2
39238301	3
39238701	1

ID variable Persons