

Languages spoken at home

There is no worldwide classification available to measure ethnicity in surveys. Measuring country of origin, nationality, mother tongue and denomination together should make it possible to construct a highly precise indicator of ethnicity, according to Jaak Billiet of K.U. Leuven BE (Questions about National , Subnational and Ethnic Identity, for the European Social Survey at www.europeansocialsurvey.org/). The *WageIndicator* questionnaire covers country of origin in almost all survey countries, it has a question about mother tongue in many surveys, and poses an additional question for the UK and ZA about ethnic group. No questions are posed about denomination. In India, there is no question about country of origin, but one question about nationality.

The question ‘Which language do you mostly speak at home?’ is posed, followed by a limited radio-button list of most commonly spoken languages in the country of survey. The languages are based on information, mostly provided by the country. Some countries have many languages spoken at home, but we selected only up to 10, including the native language(s) and in most cases an option ‘local dialect’. The question is currently switched off for Germany, Finland, and Poland.

The *WageIndicator* question is as follows:

coblangu Which language do you mostly speak at home?		
values		locale
0	French	fr_BE
1	Dutch	fr_BE, nl_BE
2	French	nl_BE
3	German	fr_BE, nl_BE
4	Italian	fr_BE, nl_BE
5	Moroccan	fr_BE, nl_BE
6	English	fr_BE, nl_BE
7	German	fr_BE, nl_BE
8	Local dialect	fr_BE, nl_BE
9	German	de-DE
10	Serbo-Croatian	de-DE
11	Kurmandi	de-DE
12	Italian	de-DE
13	Russian	de-DE
14	English	de-DE
15	French	de-DE
16	Local dialect	de-DE
17	Danish	da-DK
18	Turkish	da-DK
19	Arabic	da-DK
20	Serbo-Croatian	da-DK
21	Urdu	da-DK
22	English	da-DK
23	German	da-DK
24	Local dialect	da-DK
25	Catalan	es-ES

26	Spanish/Castellano	es-ES
27	Euskera	es-ES
28	Galego	es-ES
29	Moroccan	es-ES
30	Turkish	es-ES
31	Arabic	es-ES
32	English	es-ES
33	Italian	es-ES
34	French	es-ES
35	Local dialect	es-ES
36	Finnish	fi-FI
37	Swedish	fi-FI
38	Russian	fi-FI
39	Lappish	fi-FI
40	Estonian	fi-FI
41	Iraq	fi-FI
42	Latvian	fi-FI
43	Lithuanian	fi-FI
44	Somalian	fi-FI
45	English	fi-FI
46	German	fi-FI
47	Italian	it-IT
48	German	it-IT
49	Albanian	it-IT
50	Arabic	it-IT
51	Moroccan	it-IT
52	English	it-IT
53	French	it-IT
54	Spanish	it-IT
55	Local dialect	it-IT
56	Dutch	nl-NL
57	Moroccan	nl-NL
58	Turkish	nl-NL
59	Papiamentu	nl-NL
60	Arabic	nl-NL
61	Kurdish	nl-NL
62	English	nl-NL
63	French	nl-NL
64	German	nl-NL
65	Local dialect	nl-NL
66	Polish	pl-PL
67	German	pl-PL
68	Russian	pl-PL
69	Ukrainian	pl-PL
70	Byelorussian	pl-PL
71	English	en-GB
72	Bengali / Silheti	en-GB
73	Panjabi	en-GB
74	Gujerati	en-GB
75	Hindi / Urdu	en-GB
76	Turkish	en-GB
77	Arabic	en-GB
78	Creoles (English-based)	en-GB

79	Yorubu (Nigeria)	en-GB
80	Cantonese	en-GB
81	Greek	en-GB
82	Akan (Ashanti)	en-GB
83	Portuguese	en-GB
84	French	en-GB
85	Spanish	en-GB
86	German	en-GB
87	Italian	en-GB
88	Local dialect	en-GB
89	Lithuanian	pl-PL
90	Other	all, excl en_ZA
91	Afrikaans	en-ZA
92	English	en-ZA
93	Ndebele	en-ZA
94	Pedi	en-ZA
95	Sotho	en-ZA
96	Swaz	en-ZA
97	Tsonga	en-ZA
98	Tswana	en-ZA
99	Venda	en-ZA
100	Xhosa	en-ZA
101	Zulu	en-ZA
102	Other	en-ZA

Update 10 sep 2005 of:

- 2005 D17a Classifications and the chooser-technique used in the WageIndicator questionnaire

[PDF](#) WOLIWEB 2005-D17a-Classifications and chooser technique