Table 4: Origin of respondents used to compile our empirical population. *In brackets*: Institutionalized respondents among those (For the sampling designs of most countries in the first wave, see Klevmarken et al. 2005).

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Total
Austria	315 (6)	366 (13)	902 (43)	1,226 (31)	3,310 (58)	6,119 (151)
Germany	1,195 (13)	1,086 (27)	496 (8)	1,363 (45)	4,285 (54)	8,425 (147)
Sweden	607 (31)	706 (50)	334 (30)	985 (36)	3,788 (67)	6,420 (214)
Netherlands	837 (82)	881 (75)	517 (58)	3,977 (198)	- (-)	6,212 (413)
Spain	515 (13)	498 (9)	483 (14)	1,428 (29)	5,416 (61)	8,340 (126)
Italy	598 (16)	653 (5)	760 (17)	1,050 (22)	5,126 (36)	8,187 (96)
France	638 (15)	766 (21)	1,365 (31)	1,271 (29)	3,796 (56)	7,836 (152)
Denmark	300 (26)	659 (62)	270 (24)	756 (43)	3,608 (79)	5,593 (234)
Greece	292 (5)	1,251 (55)	- (-)	- (-)	4,777 (2)	6,320 (62)
Switzerland	226 (5)	366 (14)	654 (24)	441 (24)	2,717 (57)	4,404 (124)
Belgium	737 (11)	816 (24)	996 (69)	1,239 (61)	5,628 (155)	9,416 (320)
Israel	501 (10)	430 (35)	- (-)	709 (21)	1,862 (35)	3,502 (101)
Czech Republic	- (-)	1,283 (28)	1,079 (21)	1,180 (44)	4,732 (76)	8,274 (169)
Luxembourg	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	500 (22)	1,539 (30)	2,039 (52)
Estonia	- (-)	- (-)	917 (15)	1,135 (13)	5,527 (52)	7,579 (80)
Total	6,761 (233)	9,761 (418)	8,773 (354)	17,260 (618)	56,111 (818)	98,666 (2,441)

Table 5: Operationalization of all variables used in the empirical analysis

Variable	Operationalization in our analysis
Index on limitations in ADL	Count variable, reaching from 0 (no limitations) to 9 limitations with the following items: ADL: Dressing, including putting on shoes and socks; Walking across a room; Bathing or showering; Eating, such as cutting up your food; Getting in or out of bed; Using the toilet, including getting up or down; IADL: Making telephone calls; Taking medications; Managing money, such as paying bills and keeping track of expenses
Self-rated health	1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Very good, and 5 = Excellent
Age	1 = 50 to 59 years, 2 = 60 to 69 years, 3 = 70 to 79 years, 4 = 80 to 89 years, and 5 = older than 90 years
Gender	0 = male, 1 = female
Institutionalization	0 = Community-dwelling respondents, 1 = Institutionalized respondents