# Web survey participation of Millennials

How does it differ from the one of older age cohorts and what could help increasing it?

Melanie Revilla | RECSM-UPF





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# Why focusing on Millennials?

#### Why Companies Should Engage with Millennials

ECONOMICS > BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

## The Importance of Millennial Consumers

#### Why the Millennials Are the Most Important Generation Yet

#### Millennials Are Changing the Game

No matter what Internet-related business you're in, millennials are your most important demographic. Understanding how they think is critical. It's an understatement to say that the world they've grown up in is dramatically different than Gen X (born 1965 – 1980) and Baby Boomers (born 1946 – 1964).

This year, they became the largest generation in the workforce.

*Sources*: <u>https://www.investopedia.com/articles/personal-finance/060415/importance-millennial-consumers.asp</u> <u>https://singularityhub.com/2015/06/02/millennials-important-generation-yet/</u> <u>https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/employee-relations/pages/why-should-companies-engage-with-millennials.aspx</u>

# Millennials vs older age cohorts



Note: Age cohorts as defined by Strauss and Howe (1991)

Millennials' communication skills are of lower quality than those of older age cohorts (Hartman & McCambridge, 2011)

Millennials have a **higher affinity towards computer-mediated communication tools** (Myers & Sadaghiani, 2010)

- First with Internet access during their formative years (Pew Research Center, 2014)
- Highest technology exposure (Hartman & McCambridge, 2011)

Millennials **process website information 5 times faster** than older age cohorts (Kim & Ammeter, 2008)

# **Expected differences in web survey participation**

### Millennials might be:

- $\circ$  Interested in different topics
- $\circ$  Less into sharing their opinions through surveys
- $\circ$  Differently affected by incentives
- Attracted to different kinds of layouts
- Quicker in processing web survey questions
- o Etc.

## This may affect:



Their decision to participate in web surveys
Their level of break-off
Their data quality
Their survey evaluation

o Etc.

## Ample research on the effect of age

Previous research mainly looks at the effect of age on survey participation and break-off

Only a small portion focuses on web surveys

Even less focuses on web surveys after mobile completion became common

Most studies include age as a continuous variable instead of studying specific age cohorts





#### PREVIOUS RESEARCH FOCUSING ON MILLENNIALS Bosch, Revilla & Paura (2018a)

Focus

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts + web surveys

Analyses

Participation rate, break-off rate, proportion of surveys answered with smartphones, and survey evaluation

Data

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1,570,301 panelists (Netquest opt-in panels) from 8 countries

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Participation rate, break-off rate, proportion of surveys answered with smartphones, and survey evaluation

Data

1,570,301 panelists (Netquest opt-in panels) from 8 countries

Main findings Significant lower participation rates + higher proportions of surveys answered through smartphones for Millennials

Almost no differences for break-off rate and survey evaluation

# Study by Revilla & Höhne (2020)

Building on Bosch et al. (2018), but extending the research:

- Data from **2 probability-based** panels (CRONOS and GIP)
- Data from **other countries** (Estonia, Slovenia, UK and Germany)
- Inclusion of the Silent cohort
- Different aspects of survey evaluation (**difficulty** & **liked**)
- **Data quality** (rate of non-substantive responses & primacy effects)
- Regression analyses to **control for potential confounders**



### Compared to older age cohorts, we expect...

- *H1* ... lower participation rate for Millennials
- *H2* ... higher break-off rate for Millennials
- *H*3 ... higher proportion of smartphone surveys for Millennials
- *H4a* ... Millennials to consider web surveys to be **less difficult**
- *H4b* ... Millennials to **like web surveys more** 
  - *H*<sup>5</sup> ... Millennials to produce survey data of **similar quality**

#### REVILLA & HÖHNE (2020) Data: 2 probability-based panels

#### **CRONOS**

Estonia, Slovenia, UK

Respondents (18+) invited at the end of ESS Round 8

Provided with tablet and Internet access when needed

Unconditional incentive

Data collection: 12-2016 to 02-2018

Welcome survey + 6 waves

Estonia: 806 panelists (260 Millennials, 310 GenX, 198 Boomers, 38 Silents)

Slovenia: 705 panelists (223 Millennials, 287 GenX, 165 Boomers, 30 Silents)

UK: 921 panelists (213 Millennials, 357 GenX, 290 Boomers, 61 Silents)

#### GIP

#### Germany

2 probability-based samples of the German population (16 to 75) drawn in 2012/2014

Provided with PC-like devices and Internet access when needed

Conditional incentive

Data collection: 2017

6 successive waves (w27 to w32)

3,214 panelists (771 Millennials, 1,318 GenX, 972 Boomers, 153 Silents)

For each panelist, we compute the following **individual** rates:

**Participation** rate

= no. started / no. invited

Break-off rate

Rate **smartphone** surveys

Rate **difficult** surveys

Rate liked surveys

Rate non-substantive resp.

Rate selecting 1<sup>rst</sup> answer

For each panelist, we compute the following **individual** rates:

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- = no. started but not finished / no. started
- = no. using a smartphone / no. started

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Rate non-substantive resp.

Rate selecting 1<sup>rst</sup> answer

= no. difficult / no. times answered this question

= no. started but not finished / no. started

= no. using a smartphone / no. started

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Rate selecting 1<sup>rst</sup> answer

- = no. started but not finished / no. started
- = no. using a smartphone / no. started
- = no. difficult / no. times answered this question
- = no. liked / no. times answered this question
- = no. non-substantive responses / no. questions asked

For each panelist, we compute the following **individual** rates:

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Break-off rate

Rate **smartphone** surveys

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Rate non-substantive resp.

- = no. difficult / no. times answered this question
- = no. liked / no. times answered this question

= no. started but not finished / no. started

= no. using a smartphone / no. started

= no. non-substantive responses / no. questions asked

Rate selecting 1<sup>rst</sup> answer

= no. selecting 1<sup>st</sup> answer / no. questions asked

# REVILLA & HÖHNE (2020) Analyses

#### **Descriptive analyses**

Comparing Millennials to older age cohorts on all 7 indicators

Using the average of the individual rates, per age cohort, panel, and country

Testing if differences between Millennials and older age cohorts are significant

Considering the effect sizes

#### **Regressions (OLS)**

Investigating whether differences only depend on the age cohort

DV: same indicators as in the descriptive analyses, except rate of smartphone surveys

Main expected confounding effect: smartphone rate

Other expected confounding effects: difficult and liked rates (for the other DV), gender, education, employment status, citizenship, and country REVILLA & HÖHNE (2020) Results descriptive analyses

Compared to older age cohorts, we found...

H1	lower participation rate for Millennials	Yes
H2	higher break-off rate for Millennials	2 countries
H3	<b>higher</b> proportion of <b>smartphone</b> surveys	Yes
H4a	Millennials to consider web surveys to be <b>less difficult</b>	No
H4b	Millennials to <b>like web surveys more</b>	No
<i>H</i> 5	Millennials to produce survey data of <b>similar quality</b>	Yes



CRONOS	Participation	Break-off
GenX	.15**	10**
Boomers	.20**	14**
Silents	.13**	07**
No. obs.	2,299	2,299
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.1134	.0337
GIP	Participation	Break-off
GenX	.07**	05*
Boomers	.19**	09**
Silents	.10**	04*
No. obs.	3,134	3,134
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.0569	.0087

CRONOS	Participation	Break-off	Difficult
GenX	.15**	10**	04
Boomers	.20**	14**	.01
Silents	.13**	07**	.09**
No. obs.	2,299	2,299	2,299
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.1134	.0337	.0441

GIP	Participation	Break-off	Difficult
GenX	.07**	05*	07**
Boomers	.19**	09**	14**
Silents	.10**	04*	03
No. obs.	3,134	3,134	3,134
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.0569	.0087	.0443

#### No support *H4a*

CRONOS	Participation	Break-off	Difficult	Liked
GenX	.15**	10**	04	.00
Boomers	.20**	14**	.01	.02
Silents	.13**	07**	.09**	03
No. obs.	2,299	2,299	2,299	2,299
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.1134	.0337	.0441	.1010

GIP	Participation	Break-off	Difficult	Liked	
GenX	.07**	05*	07**	09**	
Boomers	.19**	09**	14**	09**	
Silents	.10**	04*	03	02	
No. obs.	3,134	3,134	3,134	3,140	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.0569	.0087	.0443	.0257	

Partial support *H4b* in GIP

## Little support **H5**

CRONOS	Participation	Break-off	Difficult	Liked	Non-subs.	Select 1 <sup>st</sup>
GenX	.15**	10**	04	.00	.14**	.04
Boomers	.20**	14**	.01	.02	.17**	.07*
Silents	.13**	07**	.09**	03	.16**	.09**
No. obs.	2,299	2,299	2,299	2,299	1,867	1,867
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.1134	.0337	.0441	.1010	.0715	.0303
GIP	Participation	Break-off	Difficult	Liked	Non-subs.	Select 1 <sup>st</sup>
GenX	.07**	05*	07**	09**	05*	.03
Boomers	.19**	09**	14**	09**	15**	.06*
Silents	.10**	04*	03	02	10**	.03
No. obs.	3,134	3,134	3,134	3,140	2,827	2,827
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.0569	.0087	.0443	.0257	.0920	.0890

#### REVILLA & HÖHNE (2020) Conclusions & practical implications

Compared to older age cohorts...

- **1. Lower participation rate** for Millennials
- 2. Higher break-off rate for Millennials in 2 out of 4 countries
- 3. Higher smartphone rate for Millennials
- 4. Mixed results about survey evaluation and data quality
- $\rightarrow$  Millennials differ from older age cohorts
- → Important to adapt surveys design to Millennials to improve their participation and reduce their break-off rates
  - Previous publications propose ideas that may help engage Millennials in surveys
  - What are these ideas?

Web survey participation of Millennials: What could help increasing it? "To involve Millennials in survey participation, and obtain high-quality answers from them, survey designers may require new tools that better catch Millennials' interest and attention" (Bosch & Revilla, 2021)

Different tools have been proposed, in particular offering the option of:
▲ Aswering using emojis (Bosch & Revilla, 2021)
▲ Answering using visual data (Bosch, Revilla & Paura, 2018b)
▲ Answering using voice recordings (Revilla et al., 2020)

Not expected to work for any question but could help make the overall surveys more enjoyable and less burdensome/boring for Millennials

# 1. USING EMOJIS IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Why?



Over 10 billion emojis are sent each day  $^{\scriptscriptstyle 1}$ 



92% of the online population uses emojis daily1





Emojis are a natural friendly way of communicating



Can improve respondents' survey experience



Especially expected for Millennials (see e.g., Appboy report<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://pipeline.zoominfo.com/marketing/emoji-statistics-for-businesses</u> <sup>2</sup> https://www.marketingdive.com/ex/mobilemarketer/cms/news/research/23233.html

1. USING EMOJIS IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS

### **Empirical evidence: Bosch & Revilla (2021)**

Millennials

Use emojis in surveys in answers to open questions or in response scales



Focus



#### 1. USING EMOJIS IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Empirical evidence: Bosch & Revilla (2021)

Millennials

Use emojis in surveys in answers to open questions or in response scales

Willingness to use emojis

Analyses

Focus

Preference between emojis and verbal scales Differences in data quality & survey evaluation when proposing to use emojis vs not

Data

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Main findings 75.5% of Millennials would like to use emojis in Spain; 88.1% in Mexico
 A majority prefer using emojis instead of verbal scales

**Positive impact** of encouraging Millennials to use emojis in open-ended questions **on data quality** (similar item non-response but more information conveyed) **& survey evaluation** (higher % like)
Overall, Millennials show a clear interest for using emojis in surveys

However, much more research needed

Comparing Millennials to other age cohorts
Using different topics, scales, countries, etc.

Encouraging the use of emojis or proposing emojis scales has very limited cost and can be done across countries and languages

So it could be a **promising option**, worth to investigate further

## 2. USING VISUAL DATA IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Why?

Images largely used outside surveys:

More pictures are now taken every 2min than during the Ο entire 19th century

Several benefits expected if proposing this tool in surveys (Revilla, 2022):

- Ο
- On researchers' side (e.g., improved data quality) On respondents' side (reduced time/efforts & more enjoyable) Ο

Especially for Millennials' respondents:

- More technology oriented  $\rightarrow$  less time/efforts + more natural Ο
- **Visual language very popular for Millennials**<sup>1</sup>  $\rightarrow$  enjoy it more 0

<sup>1</sup> https://www.infographicdesignteam.com/blog/which-language-do-the-millennials-understand-the-one-that-starts-with-v/





#### 2. USING VISUAL DATA IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Empirical evidence: Bosch, Revilla & Paura (2018b)

Millennials in Spain and Mexico

Focus

Actual participation when asked to share images in a mobile web survey

Analyses

% answering in line, not in line, skipping & not understanding

Data

Same as for the emojis' study (Bosch & Revilla, 2021) Task 1 (T1): take and share photo of what they see right now Task 2 (T2): share already stored image that made them laugh

Main findings

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Main findings 41.0% (T1) to 49.2% (T2) uploaded an image in line
9.4% (T2) to 12.1% (T1) uploaded an image not in line
22.9% (T2) to 26.5% (T1) had difficulties in understanding how to do it
18.5% (T2) to 20.4% (T1) skipped the question

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Same as for the emojis' study (Bosch & Revilla, 2021) Task 1 (T1): take and share the field of the participation quite low and proportion stating Task 2 (T2): share already difficulties quite high  $\rightarrow$  does not seem to work so well

Main findings 41.0% (T1) to 49.2% (T2) uploaded an image in line
9.4% (T2) to 12.1% (T1) uploaded an image not in line
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Focus

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts Stated skills + willingness for different types of visual data





Main findings (details on next slide)

Focus

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts Stated skills + willingness for different types of visual data

Analyses

% stating they have the skills and stating they would be willing Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

Data\*

Main findings (details on next slide)

Focus

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts Stated skills + willingness for different types of visual data

Analyses

% stating they have the skills and stating they would be willing Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

Data\*

Netquest opt-in online panel in Spain (May 2021) Online survey of maximum 71 questions 857 respondents analyzed

Main findings (details on next slide)

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Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts Stated skills + willingness for different types of visual data

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% stating they have the skills and stating they would be willing Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

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Netquest opt-in online panel in Spain (May 2021) Online survey of maximum 71 questions 857 respondents analyzed

Main findings (details on next slides)

**Higher** proportion of Millennials having the **skills Higher willingness** of sharing different visual data types for Millennials

## Proportions (%) of respondents stating they have the skills

	Screenshot PC	Screenshot smartphone	Photo smartphone	Video smartphone	Already stored PC	Already stored smartphone
Millouniala	84.0	99.0	99.3	98.9	<b>93.</b> 7	97.2
Millenniais	(n=238)	(n=284)	(n=284)	(n=284)	(n=238)	(n=284)
a v	57.2*	92.0*	99.0	98.5	86.4*	94.0
GenX	(n=339)	(n=401)	(n=401)	(n=401)	(n=339)	(n=401)
D	47.4*	73.0*	98.2	93.7*	$73.7^{*}$	79·3 <sup>*</sup>
Boomers	(n=114)	(n=111)	(n=111)	(n=111)	(n=114)	(n=111)

*Note*: \* p < .05. n refers to the total number of observations.

## Proportions (%) of respondents stating they would be willing ("yes" only)

	Screenshot PC	Screenshot smartphone	Photo smartphone	Video smartphone	Already stored image PC	Already stored image smartphone
۲	60.1	71.8	72.2	<b>63.</b> 7	<b>56.</b> 7	51.8
Millennials	(n=238)	(n=284)	(n=284)	(n=284)	(n=238)	(n=284)
	42.8*	59·3 <sup>*</sup>	58.3*	48.6*	43·9*	38.4*
GenX	(n=339)	(n=401)	(n=401)	(n=401)	(n=339)	(n=401)
	41.2*	46.8*	48.6*	$40.5^{*}$	48.2	41.4
Boomers	(n=114)	(n=111)	(n=111)	(n=111)	(n=114)	(n=111)

*Note*: \* p < .05. n refers to the total number of observations.

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

Focus

Whether respondents liked answering survey questions using images and whether they found it easy

Analyses

Data\*

Main findings (details on next slide)

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

Focus

Whether respondents liked answering survey questions using images and whether they found it easy

Analyses

% like and % easy

Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

Data\*

Main findings (details on next slide)

% like and % easy

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

Focus

Whether respondents liked answering survey questions using images and whether they found it easy

Analyses

Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

Data\*

Respondi opt-in online panel in Germany (August 2019) Online survey of maximum 71 questions; 4 questions requesting visual data 1,906 respondents analyzed (956 PC and 950 smartphone)

Main findings (details on next slide)

% like and % easy

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

Focus

Whether respondents liked answering survey questions using images and whether they found it easy

Analyses

Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

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Respondi opt-in online panel in Germany (August 2019) Online survey of maximum 71 questions; 4 questions requesting visual data 1,906 respondents analyzed (956 PC and 950 smartphone)

Main findings (details on next slide)

#### Low levels of like and easy overall

Lower proportion of Millennials liked + found it easy Not as expected!

Proportion (%) who liked answering with images and who found it easy

	Like	Easy
Millennials	11.5	47•2
	(n=670)	(n=670)
GenX	18.3*	52.6*
	(n=698)	(n=694)
Boomers	16.4*	47.4
	(n=537)	(n=536)

Note: \* p < .05. n refers to the total number of observations.

## 2. USING VISUAL DATA IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Conclusion and future research

- → Some evidence to support the idea of higher skills for different types of visual data and higher willingness to produce and share visual data within the frame of web surveys for Millennials
- → However, actual participation quite low, and reported levels of like and easy low as well (even lower than GenX)
- $\rightarrow$  More research needed
  - Different samples, countries, types of visual data, topics, etc.
  - Might also depend on the exact tools used to collect the visual data

#### 2. USING VISUAL DATA IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Available tools

## SurveyImage (Höhne, Qureshi & Gavras, 2020)



More information available at: <u>https://zenodo.org/record/4280543#.Ykrj2FVByHs</u>

#### 2. USING VISUAL DATA IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS **Available tools**

## WebdataVisual (Revilla et al., 2022)

Encuesta			
Toma una captura de pantalla de la página de inicio de la UPP Para subir un archivo, puedes: - Arrastrarlo hasta - Pulsar en - Copiar y pegarlo en la zona de arrastre	C ( <u>www.upf.edu</u> ) y súbela Zona de arrastre y Copiar y pegar		
Ø Variables		< <b>&gt;</b>	



\* = 2 74

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More information available at: <u>https://www.upf.edu/web/webdataopp/tools</u>

## 3. USING VOICE OPTIONS IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Why?

Voice messages largely used outside surveys:

7 billion voice messages sent on WhatsApp every day<sup>1</sup>

As for visual data, several benefits expected if proposing this tool in surveys:

- Ο
- In particular, on respondents' side Again expect reduced time/efforts & more enjoyable

Especially for Millennials:

More technological skills and high use of smartphones Ο

Expected to increase even further in future:

o "The Next Billion Mobile Users Will Rely on Video and Voice"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><u>https://blog.whatsapp.com/making-voice-messages-better</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-end-of-typing-the-internets-next-billion-users-will-use-video-and-voice-1502116070

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

Focus

Whether respondents managed to use the voice recording tool and for those who did, whether they liked it





Main findings (details on next slide)

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

Focus

Whether respondents managed to use the voice recording tool and for those who did, whether they liked it

Analyses

% did not manage and % like (within those who managed)

Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

Data\*

Main findings (details on next slide)

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts

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Whether respondents managed to use the voice recording tool and for those who did, whether they liked it

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% did not manage and % like (within those who managed) Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

Data\*

Netquest opt-in online panel in Spain (January/February 2018) Online survey of maximum 37 questions; 6 questions requesting voice answers 403 respondents analyzed (all Android smartphone)

Main findings (details on next slide)

FocusCompare Millennials vs older age cohorts<br/>Whether respondents managed to use the voice recording tool and for those who<br/>did, whether they liked itAnalyses% did not manage and % like (within those who managed)<br/>Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohortsNetquest opt-in online panel in Spain (January/February 2018)

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Main findings (details on next slide) Results in expected direction for Millennials vs genX But **no significant differences** 

Very few Boomers so cannot really conclude for this group Relatively low level of like overall

Proportion (%) who did not manage to use the voice recording and, for those who managed, who liked it

	Did not manage	Like
Millonniala	13.9	35.0
Mineninais	(n=166)	(n=143)
ConV	18.8	28.3
Gella	( <i>n=213</i> )	(n=173)
Doomong	8.3	40.9
DOOMERS	(n=24)	(n=22)

*Note*: no significant differences. n refers to the total number of observations.

Focus

Compare Millennials vs older age cohorts Whether respondents liked using the tool and found it easy

Analyses



Main findings (details on next slide)

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% like and % easy Z-tests significance of differences between Millennials and older age cohorts

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Netquest opt-in online panel in Spain (March/Abril 2019) Online survey of maximum 33 questions; 3 questions requesting voice answers 1,622 respondents finished the survey (all Android smartphone)

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Main findings (details on next slide)

No significant differences between Millennials and older age cohorts Low level of like overall High proportion found it easy

## Proportion (%) who liked using the voice tool and who found it easy

	Like	Easy
Millonniola	26.8	64.7
Mineminais	( <i>n=541</i> )	(n=580)
ConV	26.6	64.1
Gena	( <i>n=530</i> )	(n=579)
Deerreere	25.5	58.4
Boomers	(n=98)	(n=101)

*Note*: no significant differences. n refers to the total number of observations.

3. USING VOICE OPTIONS IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Conclusion and future research

→ No evidence to support the idea that answering through voice might be a way to better involve Millennials

 $\rightarrow$  Low proportion of respondents liking this even in this age cohort

- $\rightarrow$  More research needed
  - Different samples, countries, topics, etc.
  - Might also depend on the exact tools used to collect the voice data

#### 3. USING VOICE OPTIONS IN SURVEYS TARGETING MILLENNIALS Available tools

## SurveyVoice (Höhne, Gavras & Qureshi, 2020)



## WebdataVoice (Revilla et al., 2022)

Ésta es la herramienta para grabar un audio. Pulsa el botón 'Grabar' y **di los días de la semana en castellano en voz alta**. Puedes grabar más de un audio y borrar alguno si así lo deseas.

Pulsa 'Stop' cuando lo termines

Grabar		Stop
Grabaciones		
▶ 0:00	•>	Borrar

More information: https://zenodo.org/record/4644590#.Ykrqu1VByHs

More information: https://www.upf.edu/web/webdataopp/tools



Revilla and Höhne (2020)

- 1. Lower participation rate for Millennials
- 2. Higher break-off rate for Millennials in 2 out of 4 countries
- 3. Higher smartphone rate for Millennials

Three ideas to help engage Millennials in survey

- **1. Emojis**: promising results but no data to compare age cohorts
- 2. Visual data: mixed results with existing data, but more research needed
- **3.** Voice recordings: no support with existing data, but more research needed

Role of the tools?



To see if those who do not participate would do so if proposed with these new tools

# **Thanks!**

## Questions?

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