

Benefits and Limitations of Cross-National Comparative Survey Data

The International Social Survey
Program (ISSP)

Description Table Analysis

- ISSP
- Standard & Special Eurobarometer
- Studies from Eastern Europe
- European Values Study (EVS)
- Candidate Countries Eurobarometer
- Central and Eastern Eurobarometer Series
- Election Studies (Germany)
- Childhood, adolescence and becoming an adult 1991-1997 (bilingual documentation)
- Others
- Politbarometer (German documentation only)

ZACAT - GESIS Online Study Catalogue

Welcome to ZACAT, a social science data portal allowing you to search for, browse, analyse and download social science survey data, provided by GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (dept. Data Archive and Data Analysis, formerly *Central Archive for Empirical Social Research (GESIS-ZA)*).

The studies in this catalogue are a small selection of the data available at GESIS. Further studies are added continuously to ZACAT (see box at the right for recent publications).

Use of ZACAT is free of charge. Published datasets and accompanying documentation can be browsed without prior registration. Analysing, creating tables and downloading require registration. Please note that there is **no separate login page** to download data or analyse it online. The **system will prompt you for your user name and password** if you start downloading or analysing data (the possibility to log in on the registration page serves only to update your personal information or change your password)!

Please click on in the left frame to view the ZACAT catalogue structure. If you click on the name (and not the icon!) of a catalogue further information will be provided for some catalogues. A **user guide** and a **FAQ list** are always available from the respective links in the top-right menu. A **short introduction to online browsing and analysis** can be found here.

Your comments and remarks are appreciated!

Recent Datasets / Collections
25.04.2009
▶ ISSP 2007: Leisure Time and Sports (Partial Release)
31.03.2009
▶ Eurobarometer 65.3: Neighbours of the European Union, Services of General Interest, Employment and Social Policy, Energy Technologies, and Family Planning (ZA4507)
17.03.2009
▶ Eurobarometer 65.2: The European Constitution, Social and Economic Quality of Life, Avian Influenza, and Energy Issues (ZA4506)
▶ Eurobarometer 65.1: The Future of Europe, Transborder Purchases in the European Union, and Family Planning (ZA4505)
▶ Eurobarometer 64.4: Mental Well-being, Telecommunications, Harmful Internet Content, and Farm Animal's Welfare (ZA4416)
06.03.2009
▶ Politbarometer Ost 2007
▶ Politbarometer West 2007
▶ Politbarometer 1977-2005 (Partielle Kumulation)
Publication History ...



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Note: In many cases, it is advisable to weight analysis results before reporting them. Correct weighting requires careful consideration, please always consult the meta information of the concerned studies before using weights. To apply weights, select the Weight icon and choose the weight variable to be used. All results need careful interpretation. The original collectors of the data and the involved data archives bear no responsibility for the interpretation of the data. Users of data



ISSP - The International Social Survey Programme


The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) is a continuing annual programme of cross-national collaboration on surveys covering topics important for social science research. Since 1983 it brings together pre-existing social science projects and co-ordinates research goals, thereby adding a cross-national, cross-cultural perspective to the individual national studies. The first ISSP survey was administered in 1985/86 in six countries. At present, the ISSP has about 40 member countries all over the world.

The [GESIS ISSP web pages](#) provide background and detailed information on this series as well as up-to-date news and related resources. Each of the annual ISSP modules has an information page of its own there, with access to printable codebooks, reference questionnaires, methods reports, errata, field questionnaires in original languages, and some overview information.

The integration over the participating countries and central parts of the documentation of the ISSP surveys are carried out at GESIS. The department "Data Archive and Data Analysis" of GESIS (formerly Central Archive for Empirical Social Research, ZA) is the official archive of the ISSP and thus the primary source of information and original data for the ISSP analysis files. Starting 1997, the preparation of the data sets is being done in cooperation with ASEP / JDS in Madrid, Spain. ISSP modules of odd years (1997, 1999, ...) are prepared by ASEP/JDS, and the modules of even years (1998, 2000, ...) by GESIS. Data formats and documentation standards for odd years after 1997 may therefore differ slightly from the remainder of the series.

Exploring ISSP data in ZACAT

ZACAT offers basic analysis features, online documentation and download facilities for the ISSP to registered ZACAT users. Your comments, remarks and questions on the ISSP materials offered here are appreciated (isspservice@gesis.org).

You will often want to view frequencies and percentages split by country in order to compare results from different countries. To do that, select a COUNTRY id variable (V3) as the layer for your calculations. If you want to see results for a single country only, use the country variable as the filter condition (click on  in the menu bar).

Please note that the frequency tables produced by ZACAT are initially calculated from unweighted data. It may be advisable to weight data to increase representativity in certain cases. While all ISSP data sets do have a variable with weights, the weights in this variable do not always incorporate a common weighting scheme that can be applied to all countries of the same ISSP module. For the ISSP, we therefore STRONGLY recommend using weights only after careful consideration. Consulting the Study Descriptions in the MetaData section of each module, for each analysed country, is mandatory when using weights!

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Note: In many cases, it is advisable to weight analysis results before reporting them. Correct weighting requires careful consideration, please always consult the meta information of the concerned studies before using weights. To apply weights, select the Weight icon  and choose the weight variable to be used. All results need careful interpretation. The original collectors of the data and the involved data archives bear no responsibility for the interpretation of the data. Users of data are obliged to accept the Terms of Use.

The ISSP In Brief

The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) is a continuous programme of cross-national collaboration running annual surveys on topics important for the social sciences. The programme started in 1984 with four founding members - Australia, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States - and has grown to [44 member countries](#) from all over the world in 2008. For more details on the ISSP history, please [click here](#).

The ISSP is unique in a number of ways:

First, the cross-national collaboration is not ad hoc or intermittent, but continuous. Thus, the ISSP makes cross-national research a basic part of the national research agenda of each participating country. Second, the programme is based on voluntary co-operation. Major decisions on modules or questionnaires, on membership or membership obligations are taken by the ISSP in common, by votes in the ISSP's general assembly. For more details on the organisational structure, please [click here](#). Third, each ISSP member funds its own survey, there are no central funds. Fourth, the ISSP is also one of the few cross-national studies to conduct and publish study monitoring reports of the annual studies. Finally, ISSP surveys are designed to serve as replications. Hence, the ISSP offers two powerful research strategies to study societal processes - by combining a cross-time with a cross-national perspective.

Implementation and archiving of modules are carried out in accordance with the ISSP [Working Principles](#) and the requirements for data and background variables.

For more information on the ISSP, please visit the [ISSP web site](#), maintained by the current [ISSP secretariat](#), NSD, Norway. Publications on ISSP data are listed in the [ISSP bibliography](#) which can be downloaded.

Synopsis of ISSP Modules by Year

Documentation on ISSP data sets is provided on so called profile pages. On each module profile page you will find:

- An overview of variables, questions and replications in each ISSP modules (from 1995 on);
- An overview of participating countries, with sample size and year of fieldwork;
- English ISSP source questionnaire;
- National field questionnaires;
- Documentation on ISSP background variables (from 2004 onwards);
- Links to online data analysis & download;
- Codebooks (until 2004);
- Full text search in codebooks & questionnaires;
- Study Monitoring Reports;
- Comments and errata.

2008 - Religion III (currently in the field)
2007 - Leisure and Sports (currently in the field)
2006 - Role of Government IV
2005 - Work Orientations III
2004 - Citizenship
2003 - National Identity II
2002 - Family and Gender Roles III
2001 - Social Relations and Support Systems ('Social Networks II')
2000 - Environment II
1999 - Social Inequality III
1998 - Religion II
1997 - Work Orientations II
1996 - Role of Government III
1995 - National Identity I
1994 - Family and Changing Gender Roles II
1993 - Environment I
1992 - Social Inequality II
1991 - Religion I
1990 - Role of Government II
1989 - Work Orientations I
1988 - Family and Changing Gender Roles I
1987 - Social Inequality I
1986 - Social Networks and Support Systems I
1985 - Role of Government I

1985/1990/1996/2006 - Role of Government Cumulation



General information

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Member pages

ISSP members

Currently 45 countries are members of the ISSP. For each country you will find an institute profile for the ISSP representative, and contact information.

Complete address, e-mail and telephone lists are also available in **word** or **pdf** format.



- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Russia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Uruguay
- USA
- Venezuela



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Organisational Structure and Working principles

The ISSP is a self-funding association. The Programme consists of:

- Countries which are ISSP members
- The ISSP secretariat (2009-2012): The B.I. and Lucille Cohen Institute for Public Opinion Research, University of Tel Aviv, Israel.
- The ISSP archive
- The ISSP sub-groups drawn up within the ISSP
- Drafting groups for modules
- Methodology research groups

General meetings are held once a year in April or May. A major function of these meetings is to work on modules. At each meeting the next module is finalised, progress on the next but one is reviewed and planning for a third module is begun (drafting groups elected). Programme meetings and surveys are conducted according to the ISSP Working Principles. These set out business procedures for meetings, for conducting surveys and for archiving data.

The working principles are available for download in **word** and **pdf**. The ISSP Secretariat coordinates official activities within the ISSP. Data and archiving enquiries apart, please direct any general enquiries about the ISSP to the **secretariat**.



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ISSP Methodological Research

The methodological work in the ISSP is coordinated by a Methodology Committee, consisting of seven members elected by the General Meeting. The Methodology Committee is chaired by New Zealand.

The Methodology Committee co-ordinates currently the work of seven groups working on different areas of cross-cultural methods, all concerned with issues of equivalence:

- demography
- non-response
- substitution
- mode effects
- questionnaire design
- translation

For the latest information on the groups' research projects contact the following:

- demography: Markus Quandt or Evi Scholz, GESIS, Germany
- non-response: Dominique Joye, FORS, Switzerland
- substitution: Tom Smith, NORC, USA
- modes: Knut Kalgraff Skjåk, NSD, Norway
- translation and questionnaire design: Philip Gendall, Massey University, New Zealand

ISSP 2006 - "Role of Government IV" - ZA No. 4700

- [Overview of questions, variables and replications \(PDF\)](#)
- [ISSP 2006 data download via ZACAT \(Registration required\)](#)
- [ISSP 2006 source questionnaire \(PDF\)](#)
- [search in codebooks and questionnaires](#)
- [ISSP 2006 Study monitoring report \(PDF\)](#)

Note 1: The data set from **Northern Ireland** was delivered at the Archive after the integrated file had already been prepared. It is not included in the integrated file available through ZACAT, but can be provided on request.

Participating countries	Sample size	Time of Fieldwork	Comments	Questionnaire	Background Variables
Australia	2781	07/2007-10/2007		AU06	AU06
Canada	933	03/2006-10/2006		CA06	CA06
Chile	1505	06/2006-07/2006		CL06	CL06
Croatia	1200	10/2006-11/2006		HR06	HR06
Czech Republic	1201	10/2006-11/2006		CZ06	CZ06
Denmark	1368	01/2008-05/2008		DK06	DK06
Dominican Republic	2106	11/2006-12/2006			DO06
Finland	1189	09/2006-11/2006		FI06	FI06
France	1824	09/2006-12/2006		FR06	FR06
Germany	1643	03/2006-08/2006	admin. together with ISSP 2005 'Work Orientations'	DE06	DE06
Great Britain	930	06/2006-11/2006		GB06	GB06

GESIS-Methodenberichte Nr. 11/2008

ISSP Study Monitoring 2006
Report to the ISSP General Assembly
on monitoring work undertaken for the ISSP
by GESIS-ZUMA, Germany
Evi Scholz, Timo Faaß, Janet Harkness and Marleen Heller
August 2008

Language(s) and translation

	AUS	CDN	CH	CL	CZ	D	DO	DK	E	F	FIN
<i>Language(s) of the fielded module</i>											
Language 1 (L1)	English	English	German	Spanish	Czech	German	Spanish	Danish	Spanish	French	Finnish
Language 2 (L2)		French	French								Swedish
Language 3 (L3)			Italian								
<i>Was the questionnaire translated?</i>											
Yes, translated:											
- by member(s) of research team				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	L1
- by translation bureau											
- by specially trained translator(s)		L2	L1-L3	X		X					L1
- other			L1-L3 ^{CH}								L2 ^{FIN}
No, not translated	X	L1									

^{CH} Double translation.

^{FIN} Translated by a translation unit inside Statistics Finland.

Translation (continued)

	AUS	CDN	CH	CL	CZ	D	DO	DK	E	F	FIN
<i>Language(s) of the fielded module</i>											
Language 1 (L1)	English	English	German	Spanish	Czech	German	Spanish	Danish	Spanish	French	Finnish
Language 2 (L2)		French	French								Swedish
Language 3 (L3)			Italian								
<i>Was the questionnaire pre-tested?</i>											
Yes			L1, L2	X		X	X				L1
No		L2	L3		X			X	X	X	L2
Not applicable	X	L1									
<i>Were there any questions... which caused problems when translating?</i>											
Yes							X				
No		L2	L1-L3	X	X	X		X	X	X	L1, L2
Not applicable	X	L1									

Survey context

	AUS	CDN	CH	CL	CZ	D	DO	DK	E	F	FIN	GB	H	HR	IL	IRL
<i>How was the ISSP module fielded?</i>																
Individual survey							X		X	X	X				X	
Larger survey:																
- with ISSP at start	X				X			X								X
- with ISSP in middle		X	X	X									X	X		
- with ISSP at end						X						X				

	J	LV	N	NL	NZ	P	PL	ROK	ROU	RP	RUS	S	SLO	TW	USA	YV	ZA
<i>How was the ISSP module fielded?</i>																	
Individual survey	X											X					
Larger survey:																	
- with ISSP at start		X	X		X								X	X		X	
- with ISSP in middle						X	X		X						X		
- with ISSP at end				X				X		X	X						X

Question coverage and order

	AUS	CDN	CH	CL	CZ	D	DO	DK	E	F	FIN	GB	H	HR	IL	IRL
<i>Were the ISSP questions asked in prescribed order?</i>																
Yes	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No					X ^{CZ}		X	X ^{DK}								
<i>Were all the core ISSP items included?</i>																
Yes, all included			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No, not all included:																
- from module							X									
- background items	X	X														

^{CZ} Prescribed order changed by adding items.
^{DK} Prescribed order changed by adding items.

Data collection

	AUS	CDN	CH	CL	CZ	D	DO	DK	E	F	FIN	GB	H	HR	IL	IRL
<i>Data collection methods used (substantive & background)?</i>																
Face-to-face			X	X	X	X ^b	X		X			X ^b	X	X	X	X
Self-Completion (with interviewer involvement)						X ^s						X ^s				
Self-completion by mail	X	X						X		X	X					
Telephone																
<i>Length of fieldwork</i>																
2 weeks or less																
Over 2 weeks < 1 month				X			X						X			
1 month < 2 mths					X						X					
2 months < 3 mths								X	X					X		
3 mths or more	X	X	X			X				X		X			X	X
<i>Year of fieldwork</i>																
2005																X
2006		X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X
2007	X		X						X						X	
2008								X								

^b background variables

^s substantive variables

Information on response and outcome figures *

	AUS	CDN	CH	CL	CZ	D ^D	DO	DK	E	F	FIN	GB	H	HR	IL	IRL
<i>Response figures based on reported figures</i>																
Issued sample (n)	6666	3500	2255	1716	2654	3210/1442	2880	2500	4000	10000	2500	2220	2228	3038	1834	1840
Ineligible (n)	329	384	46	16	93	353/132	144	9	56	229	18	231	49	29	112	99
Eligible (n)	6337	3116	2209	1700	2561	2857/1310	2736	2491	3944	9771	2482	1989	2179	3009	1722	1741
- refusal (n)	909	40	712	97	664	1356/630	155	613	460		8	669	517	1445	432	243
- non-contact (n)	2622	2108	399	89	482	192/82	340	105	715	7761	1278	65	150	333	201	422
- other unproductive (n)	23		95	9	214	197/67	135	405	248		7	178	502	31	51	75
- completed cases (n)	2781	933	1003	1505	1201	1112/531	2106	1362 ^{DK}	2517	1917	1189	1072	1010	1200	1038	1001
- partially completed (n)	2	35						6	4	93		5				

* for calculation of response figures, see appendix.

^D Western federal states followed by Eastern federal states.

^{DK} 40 telephone interviews included (2,9% of interviews completed)