EES2019 Stacked Data

Codebook

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Contents

Preface

This document consists in the codebook of a stacked data matrix (SDM) based on the data set of the 2019 European Election Studies (EES) voter study. The creation of this SDM is part of the research activities of ProConEU, a research project aiming to analyse the enlarging gaps between proponents and opponents of the European Integration in terms of party politics, citizen politics and social media communication. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and it involves MZES Mannheim, LMU Munich, University of Thessaloniki, University of Newcastle.
More specifically, this data set is the product of the efforts of the ProConEU working package based at the MZES of the University of Mannheim. The preparation of the 2019 EES SDM set was led by Hermann Schmitt and coordinated by Giuseppe Carteny. Wilhelmine Häußling, Julian Leiser, and Matthias Körnig actively participated to the realisation of both data and documentation. The data pipeline and workflow were realised between July 2021 and January 2022 making use of R (R Core Team, 2021), and are deposited in a public online repository available at https://github.com/giucarny/EESstacked.

Overview of the data file

The variables of the dataset are grouped first according to their relationship with the set of variables available in the 2019 EES voter study. The first 131 variables consist in the original variables of said data set, while the remaining 25 are variables computed from the former ones. This codebook refers to the latter set.

The variables computed for the SDM are then grouped as it follows:

- **Identification variables**: A set of variables computed in order to identify EES 2019 respondents', their national contexts, the relevant parties of said contexts, and the dyadic relationships between respondents and relevant parties, namely the SDM observations. Said variables do not share a common suffix;
- **Recoded variables**: These variables consist in the building blocks of the generic variables presented below. More specifically they represent recoded versions of a subset of variables composing the original EES 2019 voter study data set. Said variables are identified by the suffix `_rec`;
- **Generic variables**: Concern the dyadic relationships that consist in the specific unit of analysis of the SDM approach, namely the relationship between each voter and each relevant party in a given party system. These variables share the suffix `_gen`.

Identification Variables

respid

Unique identifier of individual respondents as it was assigned in the EES 2019 voter study (`respid`; See the EES2019 Codebook).

party

Unique identifier of the relevant parties participating to the European Parliament (EP) elections of 2019. Only parties for which the EES 2019 voter study propensity to vote (PTV) variable is available have been selected. Values equate to those defined in the original EES 2019 vote choice variable referring to the 2019 EP elections (`Q7`; See the EES2019 Codebook).

stack

Unique identifier combining respondent (`respid`) and party (`party`) identifiers.

Generic Dichotomous Variables

Q2_gen

Dichotomous choice variable, measuring whether the respondent believes that the stack party (`party`) would be best at dealing with the problem specified in `Q1`.

Values:

0 - Respondent does not consider the stack party the best at dealing with the most important issue
1 - Respondent considers the stack party the best at dealing with the most important issue
96 - Not applicable (Answer to EES2019 Q1 = Don't know)
98 - Respondent does not know

Q7_gen

Dichotomous vote choice variable, measuring whether the respondent (recalls to have) voted for the stack party (`party`). Recoded from the EES 2019 original vote choice variable (`votech`).

Values:

0 - Respondent did not vote for the stack party (Voted for another party, or did not vote, or voted blank or nil)
1 - Respondent voted for the stack party
98 - Respondent does not remember

Q9_rec_gen

Dichotomous vote choice variable, measuring which party the respondent (recalls to have) voted for at the last (national) general election. This variable was created from a recoded version of the original EES 2019 `Q9` variable.

Values:

0 - Respondent did not vote for the stack party (Voted for another party, or did not vote, or voted blank or nil)
1 - Respondent voted for the stack party
98 - Respondent does not remember

Q25_rec_gen

Dichotomous choice variable, measuring which party the respondent feels close to (party identification). This variable was created from a recoded version of the original EES 2019 `Q25` variable.

Values:

0 - Respondent does not feel close to the stack party (Feels close to another party or does not feel close to any)

1 - Respondent feels close to the stack party
98 - Respondent does not know

Generic distance/proximity variables estimation

Q10_gen

Generic distance/proximity variable, measuring the respondent's propensity to vote for a specific party. This variable was created from a recoded version of the original EES 2019 `Q10` variable.

Values:

0.0 - Respondent does not feel close to the stack party 1.0 - Respondent feels close to the stack party
98.0 - Respondent does not know

Q11_Q13_gen

Generic distance/proximity variable, measuring the distance of the respondents' self-placement on the left-right ideological axis, variable `Q11`, and the respondent's perception of a specific party position on the same left-right continuum, variable `Q13`. This variable was created from the EES2019 `Q11` and `Q13` variable.

Values:

98.000000000 - Respondent does not know

Q23_Q24_gen

Generic distance/proximity variable, measuring the distance of the respondents' self-placement on the position taken about EU integration, variable `Q23`, and the repondent's perception of a specific party position about the EU integration process, variable `Q24`. This variable was created from the EES2019 `Q23` and `Q24` variable.

Values:

98.000000000 - Respondent does not know

Synthetic variables estimation

socdem_synt_ptv

Synthetic variable, measuring the affinity between the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and their propensity to vote. This was estimated using a linear prediction of an OLS model. The dependent Variable of this regression analysis was `Q7_gen` (see: Generic Dichotomous Variables) and the independent variables `D3_rec`, `D5_rec`, `D8_rec`, `EDU_rec`, `D4_age` and `D10_rec` (see below).

socdem_synt_vc

Synthetic variable, measuring the affinity between the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and their vote choice. This was estimated using linear predictions of a set of logit model. The dependent Variable of these regression analyses was `Q10_gen` (see: Generic distance/proximity variables estimation) and the independent variables `D3_rec`, `D5_rec`, `D8_rec`, `EDU_rec`, `D4_age` and `D10_rec` (see below).

Independent variables for socdem_synt_ptv and socdem_synt_vc estimation

Categorical independent variables:

- `D3_rec`: Respondent's gender (0 = Male, 1 = Female), recoded from the original `D3` EES2019 variable (categorical);
- `D5_rec`: Whether the respondent is married/remarried/single living with a partner (1) or single/divorced/separated/widowed (0), recoded from the original `D5` EES2019 variable (categorical);
- `D8_rec`: Whether the respondent lives in a rural (0) or urban area (1), recoded from the original `D8` variable (categorical);
- `EDU_rec`: Respondent's years of formal education (1 = 15 years or less, 2 = 16-19 years, 3 = 20+);

Continuous independent variables:

- `D4_age`: Respondent's age, recoded from the original `D4_1` (year of birth) EES2019 variable (ordinal treated as continuous);
- `D10_rec`: Respondent's religiosity, recoded from the original `D10` EES2019 variable (ordinal treated as continuous). In particular, the values (min = 0, max = 6) are inverted, so that higher values indicate stronger religiosity and lower values indicate low/none religiosity.

Bibliographical References

R Core Team. (2021). *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. R Foundation for Statistical Computing. https://www.R-project.org/