2019 EES Voter Study

Stacked Data Matrix Codebook

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Contents

Preface

This document consists in the codebook of a stacked data matrix (SDM) based on the dataset 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 (BMBF), and it involves the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) of the University of Mannheim, the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, the University of Thessaloniki, and the University of Newcastle.
More specifically, this dataset is the product of the efforts of the ProConEU working package based at the MZES. 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 dataset and documentation. The data pipeline and workflow were completed between July 2021 and January 2022 making use of R (R Core Team, 2021), and are deposited in a online public 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 dataset, while the remaining 25 are variables computed from the former ones or, in a few cases, original 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. 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 are recoded versions of a subset of variables included in the original 2019 EES voter study dataset[1]. Said variables are identified by the suffix `_rec`;
- **Generic variables**: The variables represent the specific variables of the SDM. They concern the unit of analysis of the SDM approach, namely the dyadic relationship between each individual observation of the original data matrix (the 2019 EES voter study dataset) and each relevant party of a given party system. These variables share the suffix `_gen`. Generic variables are then subset in three distinct groups, namely *categorical*, *proximity*, and *synthetic* variables.

Identification variables

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 2019 EES voter study codebook).

stack

Unique identifier combining the individual respondent identification code as assigned in the EES 2019 voter study (`respid`; See the 2019 EES voter study codebook) (`respid`) and party codes (`party`).

[1]The original 2019 EES voter study variables' coding is available on the 2019 EES voter study Master Questionnaire and the 2019 EES voter study codebook.

countryname and countryshort

The first variable (`countryname`) consists in the complete name of the European Union member states in 2019, whereas the second variable (`countryshort`) consists in the two-letter country code of said states as defined by
Eurostat.

Recoded variables

D1_rec

Variable measuring whether the respondent is a member of a trade union or not (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D1`).

Values:

0 - Not a member of a trade union
1 - Member of a trade union
98 - Don't know
99 - No answer

D3_rec

Respondent's sex (Recoded from the respondent 2019 EES sex variable, `D3`).

Values:

1 - Male
2 - Female
3 - Other

D4_1_rec

Respondent's age in 2019 (Recoded from the respondent 2019 EES year of birth variable, `D4_1`).

D5_rec

Respondent's marital status (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D5`).

Values:

0 - Single
1 - Married/Remarried/Single living with a partner
98 - Don't know
99 - No answer

D6_rec

Respondent's occupational status (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D6`).

Values:

1 - Self-employed
2 - Employed
3 - In school
4 - Working in the household
5 - Retired
6 - Unemployed
7 - Other
99 - No answer

D6_std_rec

Variable measuring whether the respondent is a student or not (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D6`).

Values:

0 - Student
1 - Not a student
99 - No answer

D6_une_rec

Variable measuring whether the respondent is unemployed or not (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D6`).

Values:

0 - Not Unemployed
1 - Unemployed
99 - No answer

D7_rec

Respondent's subjective social class (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D7`).

Values:

0 - Working or lower middle class
1 - Middle class 2 - Upper middle class or upper class 97 - Other 98 - Don't know
99 - No answer

D8_rec

Respondent's area of residency (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D8`).

Values:

0 - Rural area or village
1 - Small, middle, or large town

D9_rec

Respondent's religious denomination (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D9`).

Values:

0 - Non believer/Atheist/Agnostic
1 - Catholic
2 - Orthodox
3 - Protestant
4 - Other Christian
5 - Other
99 - No answer

D10_rec

Respondent's frequency of religious service attendance (Recoded from the 2019 EES variable `D10`).

Values:

0 - Never/About once a year
1 - Less often
2 - About once a year
3 - Only on special holy days
4 - About each 2 or 3 month
5 - Once a month
6 - Once a week
7 - More than once a week
98 - Don't know
99 - No answer

N.B.: 0 includes "*Non believer/Atheist/Agnostic*" in `D9_rec` if and only if "*No answer*" in `D10`.

EDU_rec

Respondent's level of education (Recoded from the 2019 EES variables `EDU` and `D2`).

Values:

1 - Low (15 or less years of schooling)
2 - Medium (16-19 years of schooling)
3 - High (20+ years of schooling)
99 - No answer

Q25_rec

Variable measuring whether the respondent feels close to any political party or not. Differently from the original variable (`Q25`) party codes have been recoded in order to be line with those of the 2019 EP vote choice variable (`Q7`, see the 2019 EES voter study codebook).

Values:

0 - Respondent does not feel close to a political party
90 - Respondent feels close to a party not among the answer categories or a non-relevant party
101-2807 Respondent feels close to the party [`Q25_rec` value]

Q9_rec

Respondent's (recalled) vote choice at the last national elections prior to 2019. Differently from the original variable (`Q9`) party codes are in line with those of the 2019 EP vote choice variable (`Q7`, see the 2019 EES voter study codebook).

Values:

0 - Respondent did not vote
90 - Respondent voted for another party
96 - Respondent did vote blanc or nil
98 - Respondent does not remember
98 - No answer
101-2814 Respondent voted for the party [`Q9_rec` value]

Generic categorical variables

Q2_gen

Variable measuring whether the respondent believes that the stack party would be the best at dealing with the most important issue (as identified by the respondent herself) faced by the respondent's country (Recoded from the 2019 EES variables `Q2`).

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 `Q1` = Don't know)

98 - Respondent does not know
99 - No answer

Q7_gen

Variable measuring whether the respondent (recalls to have) voted for the stack party at the 2019 European Parliament (EP) elections (Recoded from the original 2019 EP vote choice variable of the EES voter study, `Q7`; see the 2019 EES voter study codebook).

Values:

0 - Respondent did not vote for the stack party
1 - Respondent voted for the stack party
98 - Respondent does not remember

N.B.: 0 includes all the cases in which the respondent voted for another party, did not vote, voted blank or nil.

Q9_gen

Variable measuring whether the respondent (recalls to have) voted for the stack party at the last national general elections (Recoded from `Q9_rec`).

Values:

0 - Respondent did not vote for the stack party
1 - Respondent voted for the stack party
98 - Respondent does not remember

N.B.: 0 includes all the cases in which the respondent voted for another party, did not vote, voted blank or nil.

Q25_gen

Dichotomous variable, measuring whether the repondent feels close to the stack party (Recoded from `Q25_rec`).

Values:

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

N.B.: 0 includes both the cases in which the respondent feels close to another party or does not feel close to any party.

Generic proximity variables

Q10_gen

Variable measuring the respondent's propensity to vote for the stack party (computed from the 2019 EES variable `Q10`).

Values:

0 - Respondent has a very low propensity to vote for the stack party
1 - Respondent has a very high propensity to vote for the stack party
98 - Respondent does not know

Q11_Q13_gen

Variable measuring the proximity between the respondent's self-placement on the Left-Right ideological axis (`Q11`) and her perception of a specific party position on the same dimension (`Q13`).

Values:

0 - Respondent is very distant from the stack party
1 - Respondent is very close to the stack party
98 - Respondent does not know

Q23_Q24_gen

Variable measuring the proximity between the respondent's position about the EU integration process (`Q23`) and her perception of a specific party position about the same process (`Q24`).

Values:

0 - Respondent is very distant from the stack party
1 - Respondent is very close to the stack party
98 - Respondent does not know

Generic synthetic variables

socdem_synt_ptv

Variable measuring the affinity between respondent's socio-demographic characteristics and her propensity to vote for the stack party (`Q7_gen`). This variable is estimated using the linear predictions of an ordinary least squares (OLS) model. The list predictors for said model is presented below.

Values:

0 - Respondent has a very low affinity with the stack party
1 - Respondent has a very high affinity with the stack party
99 - Not available

N.B.: Values are *not* centered.

socdem_synt_vc

Variable measuring the affinity between respondent's socio-demographic characteristics and her generic vote choice (`Q10_gen`). This variable is estimated using the linear predictions (log-odds) of a binomial logistic regression model. The list predictors for said model is presented below.

Values:

-2.5 or below - Respondent has a very low affinity with the stack party
$+2.5$ or above - Respondent has a very high affinity with the stack party
99 - Not available

N.B.: Values are *not* centered.

Independent variables for socdem_synt_ptv and socdem_synt_vc estimation

Categorical independent variables:

- `D1_rec`: Variable measuring whether the respondent is a member of a trade union (1) or not (0);
- `D3_rec`: Respondent's gender (0 = Male, 1 = Female);
- `D5_rec`: Whether the respondent is married/remarried/single living with a partner (1) or single/divorced/separated/widowed (0);
- `D6_une_rec`: Variable measuring whether the respondent is unemployed (1) or not (0);
- `D7_rec`: Subjective social class (0 = working class or lower middle, 1 = middle class, 2 = upper middle or higher class);
- `D8_rec`: Whether the respondent lives in a rural (0) or urban area (1);
- `EDU_rec`: Respondent's years of formal education (1 = 15 years or less, 2 = 16-19 years, 3 = 20+).

Continuous independent variables:

- `D4_1_rec`: Respondent's age (min = 16, max = 98; ordinal treated as continuous);
- `D10_rec`: Respondent's religiosity (min = 0, max = 6; ordinal treated as continuous).

Bibliographical References

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