

Information on the manual coding of open-ended answers implemented in the Selects 2023 Post-Election Survey (PES)

1. Coding of “other party” in questions involving a choice of parties

Information available in the text field “other party” were manually recoded into existing categories. Here are a few indications on this manual recoding:

-Youth parties were classified with the main parties (e.g., a mention of the young SVP is added to the category SVP).

-Independent candidates (not belonging to any party) were classified in category 402 "No party / rather persons".

-Explicit mentions of “no party” were also classified in category 402 "No party / rather persons". This choice was made because the voting system in Switzerland allows voters not to put any party on the header of their ballot.

These answers classified in 402 were then retained as valid answers in the shorter version of variables (ending with “main6”) and classified in category “350 Other party, several/all parties”. The only exception concerned the variables on the most competent party to solve the most important problem where the explicit mentions of “no party” were first classified in category in category 994 “No party / rather persons” and then recoded into “-99 no answer” in the shorter version.

The long list of parties used in numerous variables is the following:

- 10 "FDP/PLR - Liberal Radical Party"
- 20 "CVP/PDC - Christian Democratic People's Party"
- 21 "The Centre (former CVP/ BDP)"
- 30 "SP/PS - Social Democratic Party"
- 40 "SVP/UDC - Swiss People's Party"
- 50 "GPS/PES - Green Party"
- 60 "GLP/PVL - Green Liberal Party"
- 70 "BDP/PBD - Conservative Democratic Party"
- 80 "Lega - Ticino League"
- 90 "MCG - Geneva Citizens' Movement"
- 100 "CSP/PCS - Christian Social Party"
- 110 "EVP/PEV - Evangelical People's Party"
- 120 "EDU/UDF - Federal Democratic Union"
- 130 "PdA/PdT - Swiss Party of Labour"
- 140 "AL - Alternative List / Sol - Solidarity / EàG - Ensemble à Gauche / MPS - Movement for Socialism"
- 201 "PP - Pirate Party"
- 300 "Left party: other left party not listed above"
- 310 "Right party: other right party not listed above"
- 320 "Center party: other center party not listed above"
- 350 "Other party"
- 402/994 "No party / rather persons"
- 404 "Several parties"
- 405 "All parties together, all"
- 406 "Left parties (several)"
- 407 "Right parties (several)"

993 "(Would have) Voted blank"
995 "Other answer"
998 "Don't know" (used for vote intention, not for party decision)
-99 "No answer"

To create the shorter version, the following recoding was done: (80 thru 350=350) (402=350) (404 thru 407=350) (993 thru 998=-99).

The shorter list of parties (in variables whose name ends with "main6") is the following:

10 "FDP/PLR - Liberal Radical Party"
21 "The Centre (former CVP/ BDP)"
30 "SP/PS - Social Democratic Party"
40 "SVP/UDC - Swiss People's Party"
50 "GPS/PES - Green Party"
60 "GLP/PVL - Green Liberal Party"
350 "Other party, several/all parties"
998 "Don't know" (used for vote intention, not for party decision)
-99 "No answer, no party, other answer"

2. Coding of the most important problem (MIP)

There are two open-ended items: f12700 (first question) and f12730 (second question for those who responded to f12700).

The MIP coding only refers to the saliency of problems. It thus may be the case that opposed positions fall into the same category. Examples (in German):

 klimanotstand -> klima (17)
 klimahysterie -> klima (17)

In general, the coding is based on the first mention. Examples (in German):

 ahv -> ahv (1)
 ahv eu > ahv (1)

However, for those participants who did not answer f12730 (code -99), the coding is based on the second mention of f12700 if available and different from the first mention.

List of codes (variables f12700c f12730c)

1 "Old age insurance (AHV/AVS)"
2 "Other old age provisions"
3 "Unemployment"
4 "Poverty"
5 "Asylum seekers, asylum policy"
6 "Foreigners, immigration policy"
7 "Drugs, addictions"
8 "EU, Europe"
9 "Extremism"
10 "Finances"

11 "Refugees"
12 "Xenophobia, racism"
13 "Health system"
14 "Globalisation"
15 "Youth unemployment"
16 "Integration of immigrants"
17 "Climate"
18 "Consociationalism"
19 "Health insurance"
20 "Crime"
21 "Neutrality"
22 "Politicians"
23 "Political style"
24 "Political system"
25 "Direct democracy"
27 "Party polarisation"
28 "Security"
29 "Social security"
30 "Social inequalities"
31 "Taxes"
32 "National fiscal equalisation"
33 "Environment"
34 "Economic development"
35 "Media"
36 "Renewable energies"
37 "Economic/financial crisis"
38 "Overvaluation of Swiss franc"
39 "Nuclear energy"
40 "Transportation, traffic"
41 "Banks, banking crisis"
42 "Lobbying, money in politics"
43 "Urban sprawl, overconstruction"
44 "Bilateral agreements with EU"
45 "Economy, economic policy"
46 "Education"
47 "Social policy, welfare state"
48 "Family policy, upbringing"
49 "Labour market, workplace security"
50 "Difference between rich and poor, income inequality"
51 "Fear, politics of fear"
52 "Labour market for 50+"
53 "Impoverishment/loss of the middle class"
54 "Vandalism, violence"
55 "Road rowdies"
56 "Terrorism"
57 "2nd Gotthard tunnel"
58 "Future"
59 "Work for young people"
60 "Overpopulation"
61 "Energy, energy policy"
62 "Cross-border commuters"

63 "Swiss People's Party"
64 "Equal rights"
65 "Lack of cohesion in society"
66 "National cohesion, regions, languages, cantons"
67 "Lack of tolerance, discrimination "
68 "Society in general"
69 "Foreign policy, relations with other countries"
70 "Housing, excessive costs of housing"
71 "Agricultural policy, farmers"
73 "Army"
74 "Aging population, demographics"
75 "Bureaucracy"
78 "Bank secrecy"
79 "Respect, honesty, loss of values"
80 "Shift to the right"
81 "Lack of kindergartens and nurseries"
82 "Invalidity insurance"
84 "Independence, autonomy"
85 "Rising prices, purchasing power"
86 "Disregard of popular will, too slow implementation of laws and initiatives"
90 "Popular initiative against mass immigration"
92 "Low political interest and participation"
93 "Penal system, legal system, justice"
94 "Open borders, free movement of people"
95 "Excessive salaries, 'rip-off'"
96 "Other"
97 "No problems, things should stay as they are"
101 "Institutional framework agreement with EU"
102 "Capitalism"
103 "5G"
104 "Animal protection"
105 "Politics abroad (such as Trump, Brexit)"
106 "Digitisation, robotisation"
107 "Lack of general objectives, visions and strategies"
108 "Data protection"
109 "Left, socialism"
110 "Wars, peace policy"
111 "Islam, islamism"
112 "Corruption, cronyism"
113 "Populism"
114 "Negative interest rates"
115 "Culture"
116 "Infrastructure"
117 "Individual liberty, liberty, government control"
201 "COVID-19 pandemic - in general or several aspects"
202 "COVID-19 pandemic - economic aspects"
203 "COVID-19 pandemic - health aspects"
204 "COVID-19 pandemic - legal aspects"
205 "COVID-19 pandemic - social aspects"
206 "COVID-19 pandemic - political aspects"
207 "COVID-19 pandemic - other aspects"

98 "Don't know"
-99 "No answer"

A reduced list of MIPs is used in variables f12700rec and f12730rec. To obtain this reduced list, the following recoding was implemented:

(71=1)
(14 34 37 38 41 45 85 95 102 114=2)
(46 115=3)
(17 33 36 39 43 61 104=4)
(8 94 44 101=5)
(10 31 78 32=6)
(64 67 117=7)
(5 6 11 12 16 62 111=8)
(21 69 73 84 91 105 110=9)
(15 3 49 52 59 106=10)
(20 28 55 54 93 56 9=11)
(18 22 23 24 63 80 27 25 42 51 90 92 86 107 109 112 113=12)
(13 19 7=13)
(40 70 75 57 103 116=14)
(65 66 68 79=15)
(1 2 4 30 47 48 50 53 60 74 82 29 81=16)
(96 35 58 108=17)
(97=18)
(201 202 203 204 205 206 207=19)

The reduced list is the following (variables f12700rec and f12730rec):

1 "Agriculture"
2 "Economy"
3 "Education & culture"
4 "Environment & energy"
5 "EU, Europe"
6 "Finances & taxes"
7 "Gender issues & discrimination"
8 "Immigration & asylum"
9 "Foreign policy & defense"
10 "Labour market"
11 "Law & order"
12 "Political system, parties & politicians"
13 "Public health"
14 "Public services & infrastructure"
15 "Regions & national cohesion"
16 "Social security/welfare state"
17 "Other problems"
18 "No problem"
19 "COVID-19 pandemic"
98 "Don't know"
-99 "No answer"