

Codebook media claims
ESS 2014

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1 Introduction Media Claims

This document gives an overview of the variables in the media claims data file. For Round 6 of the ESS a new standardised tool for the systematic cross-national recording of events have been developed. This new approach of *media claims reporting* replaced the *event reporting* conducted in the first five rounds of the ESS. In Round 7, the media claims were collected again.

An instance of claim-making (shorthand: a *claim*) is a unit of strategic action in the public sphere. It consists of the expression of a political opinion by some form of physical or verbal action, regardless of the form this expression takes (statement, violence, repression, decision, demonstration, court ruling, etc. etc.) and regardless of the nature of the actor (governments, social movements, NGOs, individuals, anonymous actors, etc. etc.). The claims are the unit of analysis. Furthermore claims in the ESS are claims related to the content of the ESS questionnaire.

For more information on media claims coding see ‘the media claims guidelines R7’ which comprise a detailed overview.

Once identified claims are coded according to the codebook developed by Bristol University and adapted for Round 7 of the ESS. The codes are presented below and are part of media claims SPSS data.

2 ESS Claims Code book Round 7 (part 1¹)

Variables	Description	Notes
ID	Claim identification number	Claims are the unit of analysis
Country	Country of newspaper	String variable, name of the country
Language	Language of newspaper	String variable, language of the newspaper
Date	The date of publication of the newspaper	SPSS date variable
Newspaper	Name of newspaper from which claim is coded	See for an overview of the newspapers 'the media landscape document'. Mostly consist of two newspapers per country.
Headline	Transcription of the newspaper headline in newspaper language	National language
Actor	The individual or collective subject	First and last name and role (e.g., prime minister)
Claim	Literal copy of claim (verbatim)	String, text of the claim
Claimeng	Literal copy of claim (verbatim)	Translated in English
Issuecode	<p>Issue codes must be mentioned, not inferred, so only code trust when the actor mentions trust.</p> <p>So only code claims if the actor mention the topic from the Issue field. For example, the country got more dangerous said by the former prime minister is a claim. But 'yesterday, there were two gangs fights in the city centre, police said'? is not a claim. Only if the police mention this makes the city more dangerous it can be coded.</p> <p>Actions such as strikes or demonstrations apply as 'collective action by members of civil society' when an actor explicitly makes a claim about the level of civic action/protest, including call for action. The strike or demonstration goal or motto should be coded as an instance of political claiming in itself. So if the motto of the demonstration is related to the 'national performance', the instance of claim making should be coded like so.</p> <p>Issues related to the Church or to other religious institutions apply to the 'religion in public life category' (issue code 18) or if they affect to religiosity issues and not to the institution itself to the 'religiosity and attendance/participation' (issue code 19).</p>	<p>If claims is issuecode 6 'Political party identity' the specific national party is coded in variable Issueparty_b</p> <p>See ESS issue coding scheme round 7 in section 4 in this document</p>
Issueparty_b	Political Party Identity of Actor	String variable of national political party
Sumcode	Sum code of isseufield, higher level code of variable issuecode	
Direction	Value: -1 and +1 do not necessarily mean "negative" and "positive". Depending on the issuecode -1 and +1 do mean different things.	See ESS issue coding scheme round 7 in section 4 in this document
Optional Variables	Description - see section 3	
Addressee	Individual or collective actor to which the actor who makes the	Addressee is not

¹ Part two is optional, see next section

	claim refers in his claim.	necessarily the same as the public for which he directly speaks. E.g., if a politician speaks to a conference of his party and calls on the government to change its education policies, the addressee is the government, not the party delegates!
Actsumscope	Description actor	see section 3
Actscope	Organisational extension of the organisation or institution	see section 3
Actparty	The political party the actor is a member of.	see section 3

3 ESS Claims Code book Round 7 (part 2; optional variables)

These variables were optional to code, so this information is not available for every country in the data file.

ACTSUMDCODE

10	Whole polities	E.g., 'the EU', 'Britain', if used not to refer to the government or any other specific institution, but to the polity as a whole; note that 'the Europeans', 'the British', etc. are coded in 900: general public.
20	Politicians	if unspecified and unclear whether referring to government, parliament or parties
30	Former statespersons	
40	Government/executive	Governments and government representatives (spokespersons, ministers, royalty etc.) irrespective of territorial scope. The EU-Commission and Council of Ministers, the UN General Secretary and Security Council are coded as governments. Other examples: mayor, Landesregierung, ministry of education.
50	Legislative	Legislatures and parliaments (all chambers), including individual members thereof, including parliamentary fractions of political parties. Examples: Bundestag, House of Lords, local councils, parliamentary fraction of the SPD, Labour MPs. Intergovernmental organisations which draw up international treaties on the basis of unanimous consent of the signatories are coded among executive/government. The European Parliament and the General Assembly of the UN are, however, coded as legislatures, because they have (limited, but still) the power to make binding decisions on the basis of majority decisions.
60	Judiciary	E.g., European Court of Justice, openbaar ministerie (public prosecutor), individual judges, juries.
70	Police and internal security agencies	E.g., police, marechaussee, Bundesgrenzschutz, secret service, Verfassungsschutz, Europol. Note: the Police Union is coded as a union.
80	Military	E.g., Bundeswehr, NATO.
90	Central banks	Including state pension funds)
100	Social security executive organisations	
110	Other state executive agencies	E.g., ILO, WHO, Einwohnermeldeamt, Schulaufsichtsbehörde.
120	Political parties	Only for parties as parties, e.g., party chairman, party congress, "die SPD", "a Labour party spokesman", as well as for sub-organisations of parties (e.g., Junge Sozialisten). Note that the same person may be coded differently according to the way in which her or his position is described: e.g., Bundeskanzler Schröder is coded as government, Mitglied des Bundestages Schröder is coded as legislative, SPD-Parteivorsitzender Schröder is coded as political party.
130	Unions and employees	Includes the general categories "workers" and "employees".
140	Employers' organisations and firms	Including private pension funds; excluding agriculture
150	Churches and religious organisations/groups	
160	Media and journalists	
170	Farmers and agricultural organisations	
180	Educational professionals and organisations	incl. schools, universities in their educational capacity

190	Economists and financial experts	
200	Other scientific and research professionals and institutions	E.g., experts, research institutes, universities in their research capacity
210	Students, pupils	Including their parents
220	Other professional organisations/groups	E.g., Deutscher Ärztekammer, Berufsverband Deutscher Psychologen, Deutscher Sportbund, doctors, football players, writers, solicitors, musicians. Note: unions are always coded as unions, non-union organisations of police and judges are coded under their respective institution.
230	Consumer organisations/groups	
240	Migrant organisations/groups	Organisations or groups of immigrants, asylum seekers, ethnic minorities of migrant origin. Includes migrant organisations that would also fit another category. E.g., Islamic or Jewish organisations in Europe are coded as migrant organisations, not as religious groups, the European Association of Turkish academics is coded as a migrant organisation, not as a professional organisation, etc.
250	Pro and anti-European campaign organisations and groups	
260	Solidarity and human rights organisations	This includes only private organisations such as Pro Asyl, Anti-Racist Alliance, Arbeiterwohlfahrt, Amnesty International, Terre des Hommes, medecins sans frontières etc.
270	Welfare organisations	E.g., Red Cross, Arbeiterwohlfahrt, not state welfare agencies (these are coded as state executive agencies).
280	Racist and extreme right organisations/groups	Includes vague descriptions such as "skinheads" or "right-wing extremists". Radical right parties should be coded as political party, unless the party label is merely window dressing and does not indicate significant involvement in the electoral process (e.g. the Freiheitliche Arbeiterpartei in Germany).
290	Peace movement organisations / groups	
300	Organisations and groups of the elderly	
310	Women's organisations and groups	
320	Environmental organisations and groups	
330	Terrorist groups	
340	Rebel forces/guerrilla	E.g., UCK, Northern Alliance
350	Other civil society organisations and groups	Including not already mentioned social categories such as 'youth', 'the unemployed', 'children', etc. (e.g., if a party representative addresses a crowd at a peace rally, the party representative has priority). If there are several actors or no actor at all who have priority according to these three criteria, the order in which they are mentioned in the article decides (with, again, the main headline as the start of the article). If of one physical actor two functions are mentioned, the highest level capacity in terms of the scope variable (see below) is coded. E.g., if the article says "Portuguese prime minister and current Chair of the EU Presidency Guterres" would be code as "EU presidency" even if Portuguese prime minister would be mentioned first. However, the precondition would be that the EU presidency function is really mentioned in the article – that you know that the Portuguese prime minister is present Chair of the Council is not decisive, it should be explicitly mentioned.
360	Whole economies	
900	General public	E.g., 'citizens', 'the citizenry', 'die Öffentlichkeit', 'the electorate', 'the Germans', 'the population', 'taxpayers'; only if explicitly mentioned!
999	Unknown/unspecified actors	

Note: If a claim has more than one actor (e.g., a coalition), the following priority rules apply: 1) actors mentioned in the article as 'leaders', 'organisers', 'spokespersons', etc. have priority, unless, of course, they do not make any claims; 2) organisations, institutions or representatives thereof (e.g., 'National Organisation of Peasants') have priority over unorganized collectivities or individuals (e.g., 'peasants', 'farmer X'); 3) active actors or speakers have priority over passive audiences/rank-and-file participants

ACTSCOPE

01	Domestic national (or subnational) actor	All actors whose organisational scope is national domestic or contained within this border, including sub-national and regional/local, e.g., home national government, local newspaper, Metropolitan Police Force Commissioner (for UK).
02	Foreign EU national (or subnational) actor	Same as 01, but for national and sub-national actors from other EU member states
03	European Union (supra/inter-national) actor	E.g., European Parliament, European Commission, European Migrant Forum, European Trade Union Federation, Europäischer Verband türkischer Akademiker. If in doubt whether the label 'European' refers to an EU scope or to Europe in a wider sense, code here. Also includes organisations or institutions whose scope is a subset of the EU, e.g. the Benelux states, the Western European Union, 'Euroland', etc.
04	Foreign non-EU national (or subnational) actor	Same as 01, but for national and sub-national actors from non-EU member states, e.g. President Obama.

05	Supra/inter-national actor (non-EU, or at higher level than EU)	Includes supra- and international organisations whose scope extends beyond Europe., E.g., Roman Catholic Church (when Vatican/Pope not the Head of a national section of the RC Church), Security Council, UNHCR, UNESCO, ILO, WHO, NATO, G-20, IMF, World Bank, World Council of Roma and Sinti, Amnesty International, Greenpeace (note Amnesty UK or Greenpeace UK coded 01 for UK), International Council of Voluntary Associations, medecins sans frontières, Attac.
99	Unclassifiable	

Note: The notion of “scope” refers to the organisational extension of the organisation or institution. In the case of non-organised collective actors (e.g., 'farmers', 'protesters') it refers to the scope of mobilisation. I.e., if the report mentions 'farmers from different member states', the scope is 'European Union'. See further the examples. Here and in the other scope variables, the category 'multilateral' refers to 'involving (actors from) three or more countries' (on a strictly intergovernmental basis, not in the context of a supranational agency or organisation), 'bilateral' refers to 'involving (actors from) two countries'.

ACTPARTY

The political party the actor is a member from.

Missing values

Unless otherwise indicated, the zero code has a substantive meaning 'no' or 'none', or sometimes 'neutral' and should not be used for missing information. The code -9 is reserved for 'missing' or 'unknown'. It should only be used where we are sure or have a strong suspicion that the correct coding is not 'no' or 'none' even though the newspaper article does not contain the information. For instance, if an asylum seeker centre is set on fire, we know that someone did it, even though the perpetrators are not mentioned in the article; therefore the appropriate actor code is 999 as specified in the actsumdcode.

4 ESS issue coding scheme Round 7 (see also the SPSS data file)

Issue code	Name	Description	Issue sub code	Name	Questionnaire items	Direction
1	Reliance on media	How much people depend on television, for informational or other purposes. How much people consume in media use.			A1-A2	+1 in favour of/ advocates more regarding people's media use code -1 against/advocates less regarding people's media use 0 neither for, nor against, or neutral
2	Community relations	State of relations between people/ communities in a society/country, including aspects of mutual (dis)trust, harmony and influence, e.g. a claim about the decline in common values in society.			A3-A5	+1 about there being no breakdown in values/trust etc., advocating the 'good society', 'good community' -1 about breakdown in values/trust etc. etc. 0 about the issue, but without taking up a clear stance 0
3	Political engagement	People's involvement with politics in the country, how much do they feel they can understand and engage with it, do they feel involved in the political processes in their own country.			B1 and B9	+1 level of political involvement, engagement, interest, understanding etc., is not a problem -1 level of political involvement, engagement, interest, understanding etc., is a problem 0 Neutral, neither
4	Trust in	Public's trust in macro political institutions and bodies, people's	National 4,1	Government	B2-B8	+1 adequate trust -1 inadequate trust (should be more)

		perception of the role of these bodies.	4,2 4,3 4,4 <i>European</i> 4,5 <i>International</i> 4,6	Legal system Police Political parties 4.41 Politicians 4.42 Political Parties European Parliament United Nations		0 no clear advocacy stand
5	Collective action/ political mobilisation by citizens	Levels of extra-parliamentary activity/ mobilisation/civic engagement/civil actions/ protest by people (collectively and individually) attempting to change the political state of affairs			B11-B17	+1 high level of civic action/ protest, including call for action -1 low level of civic action/ protest, including call for repression 0 Neutral
6	Political Party Identity of Actor	Prominence of national political parties in people's perception or claims made in relation to a specific political party. (The reputation/status of political parties.)	Note: the specific national party is coded in variable Issueparty.		B18a-B18c	+1 positive prominence -1 negative prominence 0 no clear position
7	Personal well-being and life satisfaction	Factors affecting people's level of life satisfaction and wellbeing in the country/society/ community			B20	+1 people are satisfied, have high level life satisfaction/wellbeing, there is no problem -1 people are not satisfied, have low level life satisfaction/wellbeing, there is a problem 0 no clear stance either way, neutral, code
8	Perception of national performance	Satisfaction levels/ evaluations of how the economy, government, democracy, education and health services perform at the national level.	8,1 8,2 8,3 8,4 8,5	Economy Government Democratic Education Health	B21-B25	+1 high/satisfactory/good -1 low/unsatisfactory/bad 0 neutral
9	State intervention and its limits	State's involvement and extent of that involvement in regulating public life in the country with regards to ensuring economic parity and freedom of way of life	9,1 9,2	State's responsibility for reducing income inequality (social/economic redistribution) State's tolerance and recognition of gay/lesbian rights	B26-B27	+1 in favour of state intervention/enforcement over issue, or call for more -1 against state intervention/enforcement over issue, or call for less 0 no clear stance

11	Enlargement/Deepening EU interaction	The Issue- claims relating to the European Union, and processes of integration, unification, enlargement and deepening, and their potential impacts, including the extent of the country's involvement and interaction with the EU			B28	+1 in favour of, or for more (integration, enlargement, deepening) EU, including EU institutions -1 against, or for less (integration, enlargement, deepening) EU, including EU institutions 0 no specific stance
12	Immigration and Ethnic/Racial	Immigration and migrants living in country (including those specifying and not specifying race and ethnicity related issues)			B29-B31	+1 in favour of immigration, migrants -1 against immigration, migrants 0 neither for, nor against
13	Immigration: economic impact	Economic impact of immigration on the country.			B32	+1 positive (not negative) effect -1 negative (not positive) effect 0 non-specific
14	Cultural diversity and its impact	Cultural diversity of the country's population its impact on society, as a consequence of immigration			B33-B34	+1 increased cultural diversity is positive/ enhances cultural life, pro- multicultural, pro-diversity claims -1 increased cultural diversity is negative/ impoverishes cultural life, anti- multicultural, anti-diversity claims, e.g. claims for benefits of cultural homogeneity 0 without clear stance, or neutral
15	Crime/Threat of Violence/ Risk and Perceptions of Safety	Level of violence in society or people's perceptions with regards to the likelihood of becoming targets/victims of violent crimes, risks of violence in community.			C6	+1 society is risky, dangerous, threatening, potentially randomly violent in public domain -1 society is not risky, dangerous, threatening, potentially randomly violent in public domain, i.e. it is safe, secure etc 0 no clear stance, or neutral

18	Religion in public life	Public salience of a religion (includes public controversies over religion)	18,01 18,02 18,03 18,04 18,05 18,06 18,07 18,08 18,09 18,10 18,11 18,12 18,13 18,14 18,15 18,16 18,17 18,18 18,19 18,20 18,21	Christian Roman Catholic Greek or Russian Orthodox Other Eastern Orthodox Protestant Church of England/ Anglican Baptist Methodist Presbyterian/ Church of Scotland United Reform Church/ Congregational Free Presbyterian Brethren Other Protestant Other Christian Hindu Sikh Buddhist Other Eastern Religions Jewish Islam/ Muslim Other Non-Christian	C9- C13	+1 a positive evaluation, advocacy, discussion of the benefits of the religion -1 a criticism, negative evaluation etc. of the religion 0 no clear evaluation or neutral stance (e.g., Pope criticising Islam is 'Muslim', -1)
19	Religiosity and attendance/participation	People's involvement in performing some type of religious activity (praying or attending service) in their daily existence.			C14- C15	+1 advocating religious practice, about high/ increasing levels, importance of -1 rejecting need for religious practice, about low/declining levels, importance of 0 no clear stance, or neutral
20	Discrimination	Relating to experience/ perceptions of discrimination in the country, on the basis of one or more aspects	20,1 20,2 20,3 20,4 20,5 20,6 20,7 20,8 20,9	Colour or race Nationality Religion Language Ethnic group Age Gender Sexuality Disability	C16- C17	+1 there is discrimination, of discrimination, against discrimination (of specific type) -1 denying there is discrimination, or discriminatory claim (of specific type) 0 no clear stance, or neutral