BACKGROUND AND CODEBOOK

Pew Research Center

Being Christian in Western Europe

Data Set

Survey Conducted April-August, 2017

Pew Research Center conducted surveys among 24,599 adults (ages 18 and older) across 15 countries in Western Europe. Interviewing was carried out under the direction of GfK Belgium by telephone (both cellphones and landlines) from April to August 2017. The questionnaire administered by survey interviewers was designed by Pew Research Center staff in consultation with subject matter experts and advisers to the project. The wording of several questions was subjected to cognitive testing, and the full survey questionnaire was pretested in all countries prior to fieldwork.

The surveys are nationally representative, with samples of about 1,500 or more respondents in each country, allowing researchers to analyze the opinions of respondents by age, gender, education and religious affiliation (Christian or religiously unaffiliated). A combination of landline and cellphone random-digit-dial samples was used. Respondents in the landline sample were randomly selected by asking for the adult who has the next birthday. Interviews in the cellphone sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

This dataset contains responses for Slovakia, many of which were not reported in any previous Pew Research Center publication. A total of 1,497 interviews were conducted in Slovakia by telephone (cellphones and landlines) from April to July 2017.

A previously published analysis, “Five Centuries After Reformation, Catholic-Protestant Divide in Western Europe Has Faded,” used an older version of survey weights. Since then, Pew Research Center has improved the survey weights for greater accuracy – this improved weight is provided in the dataset. Scholars interested in obtaining these original weights to replicate those results *only* should contact [religion@pewresearch.org](mailto:religion@pewresearch.org).

For more information about the methodological details in each country, please consult our database [here](http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/international-survey-research/international-methodology/).

*Geographic data that could potentially reveal a respondent’s location has been withheld from this dataset. Responses to religious identification questions that contain few respondents have been recoded to protect respondents’ confidentiality. Responses to education identification questions that contain fewer than 10 respondents have been collapsed into nearby categories to best allow scholars to replicate the data. Some variables only asked of Muslim respondents have been withheld from this dataset due to small sample sizes. Variables that have been recoded have been labeled with “rec” appended to the variable name. The full questionnaire with all response options is provided in a separate document for reference. Scholars who wish to use the suppressed variables in their research should contact* [*religion@pewresearch.org*](mailto:religion@pewresearch.org)*.*

ADDITIONAL VARIABLES NOT IN QUESTIONNAIRE

QRID Unique identification number for each respondent

COUNTRY Country name

WEIGHT Weight variable. Data were weighted to account for differences in probability of selection and to match the demographic characteristics of the population.

QS11\_\_\_ NUTS 1 Region variable (differs for each country)

QS12\_\_\_ NUTS 2 Region variable (differs for each country)

QS14DEU East/West Germany variable (using divisions prior to 1990 reunification)

ISCED ISCED education level as coded by Pew (using UNESCO 1997 standards)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

SURVEY OF RELIGION AND SOCIAL LIFE

ASK ALL

Q1 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

1 Satisfied

2 Dissatisfied

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q2 Now thinking about your personal economic situation, how would you describe it – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?

1 Very good

2 Somewhat good

3 Somewhat bad

4 Very bad

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

NO Q3

ASK ALL

Q4 In the past month, have you spent AN HOUR OR MORE of your time participating in **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE – ITEM H ALWAYS LAST]**, or not? And what about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM – ITEM H ALWAYS LAST]**? **[READ AS NECESSARY: Have you spent AN HOUR OR MORE of your time in the past month participating in one?]**

a. a community group or neighborhood association

b. a political party

c. a performance or arts group, such as a choir or theatre group

d. a sports or recreation club for yourself or for your children

e a youth group, such as Scouts

f. a literary, discussion or study group, such as a book club

g. a religious group or organization, such as a church, mosque, synagogue or temple

h. any other charitable or volunteer organization [ALWAYS LAST]

1 Yes

2 No

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

RANDOMIZE Q5 AND Q6

ASK ALL

Q5 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

1 Strongly favor

2 Favor

3 Oppose

4 Strongly oppose

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q6 Do you think having an abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

1 Legal in all cases

2 Legal in most cases

3 Illegal in most cases

4 Illegal in all cases

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

**ASK ALL**

Q7 Please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, **[FOR UK/IRELAND: “even if neither is exactly right”; FOR ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: “even if it does not precisely match your opinion”]**. **[READ OPTIONS AND RANDOMIZE]**

1 Religion should be kept separate from government policies in **[COUNTRY]**

OR

2 Government policies should support religious values and beliefs in **[COUNTRY]**

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q8 Which comes closer to your view about violence committed in the name of religion. Is the bigger problem that **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]** or is it that **[INSERT NEXT]**?

1 The teachings of some religions promote violence

2 Some violent people use religion to justify their actions

3 Other/Both/Neither/Depends **(DO NOT READ)**

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK IF SAY SOME RELIGIONS PROMOTE VIOLENCE (Q8 = 1)

Q9 Which religion or religions, in particular, have teachings that promote violence? **[DO NOT READ ANSWER OPTIONS]** **[ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS]**

**[OPEN-ENDED QUESTION WITH PRECODED RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

1 Christianity (Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Orthodox, etc.)

2 Islam (Sunni, Shia, etc.)

3 Judaism

4 Hinduism

5 Buddhism

6 Other religions **[TEXT BOX (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]**

7 All religions

8 Atheism

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q10 How much would you say you know about **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]**? A great deal, some, not very much or nothing at all? What about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

a. the Muslim religion and its practices

b. the Christian religion and its practices

c. the Jewish religion and its practices

1 A great deal

2 Some

3 Not very much

4 Nothing at all

98 Don't know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q11 Please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views – **[FOR UK/IRELAND: “even if neither is exactly right”; FOR ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: “even if it does not precisely match your opinion”]**. **[READ OPTIONS AND RANDOMIZE]**

1 Islam is fundamentally incompatible with **[NATIONALITY]** culture and values

OR

2 There is no fundamental contradiction between Islam and **[NATIONALITY]** culture and values

3 Other/Both/Neither/Depends **(DO NOT READ)**

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

NO Q12

READ TO ALL

And now on a different subject …

Q13, Q14a and Q14b OMITTED FROM DATASET

ASK ALL

QCURREL What is your present religion, if any? Are you Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else or Nothing in particular? **[If respondent names more than one of the listed groups, classify as “Something else”.]**

[RESPONSE CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN COLLAPSED TO PROTECT RESPONDENT CONFIDENTIALITY]

1 Christian (Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Orthodox, etc.)

2 Muslim (Sunni, Shia, etc.)

3 Jewish

4 Buddhist

6 Hindu

9 Atheist (do not believe in God)

10 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)

91 Something else **[TEXT BOX (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]**

92 Nothing in particular

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK IF RESPONDED “SOMETHING ELSE”, “DON’T KNOW” OR “REFUSED” (QCURREL = 91, 98, 99)

QCURRELD And would you describe yourself as a Christian, a Muslim or as neither one?

[RESPONSE CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN COLLAPSED TO PROTECT RESPONDENT CONFIDENTIALITY]

1 Christian

2 Muslim

3 Neither one

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK IF CHRISTIAN (QCURREL = 1 OR QCURRELD = 1)

QDENOM\_\_\_ As I read a list, please tell me which denomination or church, if any, you identify with MOST CLOSELY. Are you [READ LIST]? [**If respondent names more than one of the listed groups, classify as “Something else”.]**

[RESPONSE OPTIONS MODIFIED BY COUNTRY – SEE “APPENDIX: DENOMINATION” BELOW]

[RESPONSE CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN COLLAPSED TO PROTECT RESPONDENT CONFIDENTIALITY]

OR

91 Something else **[TEXT BOX (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]**

92 No particular denomination **(DO NOT READ)**

93 Protestant, not further specified **(DO NOT READ)**

94 Just a Christian **(DO NOT READ)**

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

**QSECT AND QSECTb OMITTED - ASKED ONLY OF MUSLIMS AND TOO FEW CASES TO ANALYZE**

**ASK IF NOT MUSLIM (QCURREL ≠ 2 AND QCURRELD ≠ 2)**

Q15a Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services...more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom or never?

1 More than once a week

2 Once a week

3 Once or twice a month

4 A few times a year

5 Seldom

6 Never

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK IF MUSLIM (QCURREL = 2 OR QCURRELD = 2)

Q15b On average, how often do you attend a mosque or Islamic Center for salah **[PRONOUNCED sal-AH]** or Friday Prayer? More than once a week, once a week for Friday Prayer, once or twice a month, a few times a year especially for Eid **[PRONOUNCED EED]**, seldom or never?

1 More than once a week

2 Once a week for Friday Prayer

3 Once or twice a month

4 A few times a year especially for Eid

5 Seldom

6 Never

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q16 How important is religion in your life – very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

1 Very important

2 Somewhat important

3 Not too important

4 Not at all important

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK IF NOT MUSLIM OR JEWISH (QCURREL ≠ 2, 3 AND QCURRELD ≠ 2)

Q17 Have you been baptized? **[If respondent identifies that they have been christened, that would result in a “Yes” answer.]**

1 Yes

2 No

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

NO Q18

ASK ALL

Q19 Do you **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]**?

a. fast for certain periods during holy times like Lent or Ramadan

b. wear religious symbols, religious garments or carry them with you **[If respondent identifies that they wear a cross, kippah, hijab, or skullcap, that would result in a “Yes” answer.]**

c. voluntarily give money to your church, mosque, synagogue or temple **[CLARIFICATION: This does not include the church tax.]**

d. try to persuade other adults to adopt your views on God or religion

e. meditate

f. consult the horoscope, tarot cards or see a fortune teller

1 Yes

2 No

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

ASK ALL

Q20 Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree with the following statements? First, **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]**. **[For all other items read: “Next, …”]**?

a. I have a soul as well as a physical body.

b. I feel a connection to something that cannot be seen or measured scientifically.

c. When people die, that is the end; there is NO life after death.

d. There are NO spiritual forces in the universe, only the laws of nature.

e. Religion gives meaning and purpose to my life.

f. Religion helps me choose between right and wrong.

g. Overall, religion causes more harm than good.

h. Science makes religion unnecessary in my life.

1 Completely agree

2 Mostly agree

3 Mostly disagree

4 Completely disagree

98 Don’t know **(DO NOT READ)**

99 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**