Explanatory note on scales recoding in the WVS dataset

The data-file from this section – referred to as the "***inverted dataset***" – contains the same observations as the original WVS and WVS-EVS data-files with the changes being made in the directions of the scales. This dataset is released in a *test mode* to check its usability and utility for the WVS data users.

The aim of this recoding exercise was to address and resolve the problem of widespread usage of "inverse scales" in the WVS questionnaire(s)/ dataset(s). "*Inverse scales*" in the current context refer to the semantic gap or controversy between the value label (the concept/ phenomenon the question claims to measure – i.e. "happiness", "satisfaction", "trust", "importance" etc.) and the scale where the biggest numeric value is allocated to the smallest amount of the measured concept. In practical terms, this implies that variables actually represent their opposites (i.e. "level of un-happiness", "level of mistrust", "level of dissatisfaction" etc.).
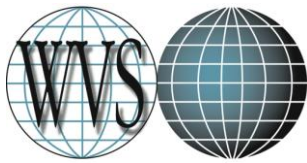
Apart from the numerous misunderstandings and issues experienced by the new users of the WVS data (who are not aware yet of this discrepancy between the value name and the scale direction), these "inverse scales" represent also a challenge to those scholars who use WVS data since many years. "Inverse scales" widely used in the WVS questionnaire(s) in all waves require significant amount of additional, preparatory work before the data can be used for the further analysis. "Inverse scales" make it difficult to analyse means and medians without prior recoding. "Inverse scales" require prior recoding for the variables to be employed in regression models and other types of statistical data analysis as well as to build meaningful indexes.

An initiative group comprising of the Members of the WVSA Executive Committee have developed and implemented a proposal to suggest recoding the "inverse scales" in accordance with the listed below key guiding principles:

- The scale direction is to be brought in line with the semantic content of the variable label.

- Recoding affects ordinal, semi-ordinal and interval scales; nominal scales remained unchanged.

- Largest numeric value of the scale should correspond to the strongest positive answer option.

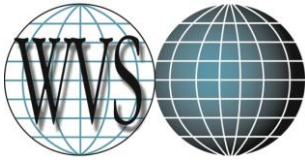- Largest numeric value of the scale should reflect highest frequency of action/ behavioural practice.

The exact list of variables to be involved into scales recoding as well as suggested new codes are included in *Annex 1*.

To differentiate between the original and recoded variables letter "P" (stands for "positive") was added at the end of the variable name. The dataset with recoded scales is released **in addition to the main dataset with the original scales' direction.**
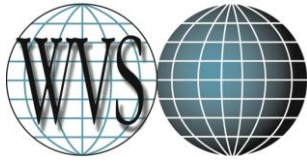
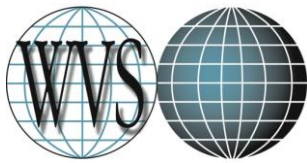## ANNEX 1. Proposed procedures for scales recoding in WVS7 data-set

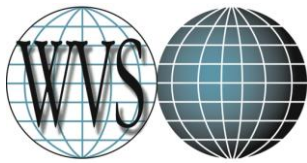| NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q1-6	Importance of family, friends, work, politics, religion	1=Very important 2=Rather important 3=Not very important 4=Not important at all	4=Very important 3=Rather important 2=Not very important 1=Not important at all
Q7-17	Important child qualities	1=Mentioned 2=Not mentioned	1=Mentioned 0=Not mentioned
Q18-26	Not acceptable as neighbours	1=Mentioned 2=Not mentioned	1=Mentioned 0=Not mentioned
Q27-32	Set of statements on social attitudes	1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=Disagree 4=Strongly disagree	4=Strongly agree 3=Agree 2=Disagree 1=Strongly disagree
Q33-41	Set of statements on social attitudes	1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=Neither agree, nor disagree 4=Disagree 5=Strongly disagree	5=Strongly agree 4=Agree 3=Neither agree, nor disagree 2=Disagree 1=Strongly disagree
Q42	How the society should be changed	3 answer options	*No changes*
Q43-45	Changes in our way of life that might take place in the near future	1=Good 2=Don't mind 3=Bad	3=Good 2=Don't mind 1=Bad
Q46	Happiness	1=Very happy 2=Rather happy 3=Not very happy 4=Not at all happy	4=Very happy 3=Rather happy 2=Not very happy 1=Not at all happy
Q47	Health	1=Very good 2=Good 3=Fair 4=Poor 5=Very poor	5=Very good 4=Good 3=Fair 2=Poor 1=Very poor
Q48	Control over your life	10-points scale	*No changes*
Q49	Life satisfaction	10-points scale	*No changes*
Q50	Financial satisfaction	10-points scale	*No changes*
Q51-55	Lived poverty index	1=Often 2=Sometimes 3=Rarely 4=Never	4=Often 3=Sometimes 2=Rarely 1=Never
Q56	Life comparing to your parents	1=Better off 2=Worse off 3=Or about the same	3=Better off 1=Worse off 2=Or about the same
Q57	Generalized trust	1=Most people can be trusted 2=Can't be too careful	1=Can't be too careful 2=Most people can be trusted

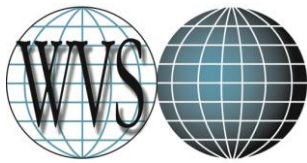| NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q58-63	Interpersonal trust (family etc.)	1=Trust completely 2=Trust somewhat 3=Do not trust very much 4=Do not trust at all	4=Trust completely 3=Trust somewhat 2=Do not trust very much 1=Do not trust at all
Q64-89	Institutional trust	1=A great deal 2=Quite a lot 3=Not very much 4=None at all	4=A great deal 3=Quite a lot 2=Not very much 1=None at all
Q90	International organizations being effective or democratic	1=Effective 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Democratic	*No changes*
Q91-93	Knowledge questions about international organizations	3 answer options	*No changes*
Q94-105	Organizational membership	2=Active member 1=Inactive member 0=Don't belong	*No changes*
Q106-110	Economic values (equality, income distribution etc.)	1=Expression 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Expression 2	*No changes*
Q111	Environment vs economic growth	3 answer options	*No changes*
Q112	Corruption perceptions	1=No corruption 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Abundant corruption	*No changes*

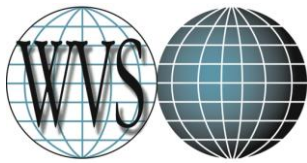| NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q113-117	Corruption of institutions and groups	1=None of them 2=Few of them 3=Most of them 4=All of them	*No changes*
Q118	Bribery frequency	1=Never 2=Rarely 3=Frequently 4=Always	*No changes*
Q119	Women are less corruption than men	1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=Disagree 4=Strongly disagree	4=Strongly agree 3=Agree 2=Disagree 1=Strongly disagree
Q120	Accountability risk	1=No risk at all 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Very high risk	*No changes*
Q121	Impact of migration on the country	5=Very good 4=Quite good 3=Neither good, nor bad 2=Quite bad 1=Very bad	*No changes*
Q122-129	Effects of immigration	2=Agree 1=Hard to say 0=Disagree	*No changes*
Q130	Migration policy/ acceptance of migrants	1=Let anyone come who wants to 2=Let people come as long as there are jobs available 3=Place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here 4=Prohibit people coming here from other countries	4=Let anyone come who wants to 3=Let people come as long as there are jobs available 2=Place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here 1=Prohibit people coming here from other countries
Q131	Subjective security	1=Very secure 2=Quite secure 3=Not very secure 4=Not at all secure	4=Very secure 3=Quite secure 2=Not very secure 1=Not at all secure
Q132-138	How frequently this occurs in your neighbourhood	1=Very frequently 2=Quite frequently 3=Not frequently 4=Not at all frequently	4=Very frequently 3=Quite frequently 2=Not frequently 1=Not at all frequently

NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q139-141	What have you done for security reasons	1=Yes 2=No	1=Yes 0=No
Q142-143	Being worried about risks	1=Very much 2=A good deal 3=Not much 4=Not at all	4=Very much 3=A good deal 2=Not much 1=Not at all
Q144-145	Victim of a crime	1=Yes 2=No	1=Yes 0=No
Q146-148	Being worried about war or terrorist attack	1=Very much 2=A good deal 3=Not much 4=Not at all	4=Very much 3=A good deal 2=Not much 1=Not at all
Q149	Freedom vs equality	1. Freedom 2. Equality	*No changes*
Q150	Freedom vs security	1. Freedom 2. Security	*No changes*
Q151	Wiliness to fight in war	1=Yes 2=No	1=Yes 0=No
Q152-157	Postmaterialism index	3 batteries, 4 options in each	*No changes*
Q158-163	Science and technology	1=Completely disagree 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Completely agree	*No changes*
Q164	Importance of God	1=Not important at all 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Very important	*No changes*
Q165-168	Believe in God	1=Yes 2=No	1=Yes 0=No
Q169-170	Religion and science	1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=Disagree 4=Strongly disagree	4=Strongly agree 3=Agree 2=Disagree 1=Strongly disagree

NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q171-172	Religious practice, praying	1=More than once a week 2=Once a week 3=Once a month 4=Only on special holy days 5=Once a year 6=Less often 7=Never, practically never	7=More than once a week 6=Once a week 5=Once a month 4=Only on special holy days 3=Once a year 2=Less often 1=Never, practically never
Q173	Religiosity	1=Religious person 2=Not religious 3=Atheist	3=Religious person 2=Not religious 1=Atheist
Q174-175	Meaning of religion	2 answer options	*No changes*
Q176	Which moral rules to follow	1=Completely agree 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Completely disagree	1=Completely disagree 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Completely agree
Q177-195	Ethical justification: acceptance of phenomena	1=Never justifiable 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Always justifiable	*No changes*
Q196-198	The government controlling the citizens *(if treated as the proxy for "not-acceptance of state control" should be recoded)*	1= Definitely should have the right 2= Probably should have the right 3= Probably should not have the right 4= Definitely should not have the right	1= Definitely should have the right 2= Probably should have the right 3= Probably should not have the right 4= Definitely should not have the right
Q199	Interest in politics	1=Very interested 2=Somewhat interested 3=Not very interested 4=Not at all interested	4=Very interested 3=Somewhat interested 3=Not very interested 1=Not at all interested
Q200	Discussing politics with friends	1=Frequently 2=Occasionally 3=Never	3=Frequently 2=Occasionally 1=Never

NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q201-208	Sources of information	1=Daily 2=Weekly 3=Monthly 4=Less than monthly 5=Never	5=Daily 4=Weekly 3=Monthly 2=Less than monthly 1=Never
Q209-220	Political action	1=Have done 2=Might do 3=Would never do	2=Have done 1=Might do 0=Would never do
Q221-222	Voting	1=Always 2=Usually 3=Never 4=Not allowed to vote	3=Always 2=Usually 1=Never 0=Not allowed to vote
Q223	Party list	Country-specific	*No changes*
Q224-233	Electoral integrity battery	1=Very often 2=Fairly often 3=Not often 4=Not at all often	4=Very often 3=Fairly often 2=Not often 1=Not at all often
Q234	Importance of honest elections	1=Very important 2=Rather important 3=Not very important 4=Not at all important	4=Very important 3=Rather important 2=Not very important 1=Not at all important
Q235-239	Support for political regimes	1=Very good 2=Fairly good 3=Fairly bad 4=Very bad	4=Very good 3=Fairly good 2=Fairly bad 1=Very bad
Q240	Political scale: left-right	10-points scale from 1=left to 10=right	*No changes*
Q241-249	Essential features of democracy	1=Not an essential feature 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Essential feature	*No changes*
Q250	Importance of democracy	1=Not at all important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Absolutely important	*No changes*

NN	Variables	Original scale	Recoded "positive" scale
Q251	Perceived democraticness	1=Not at all democratic 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Completely democratic	*No changes*
Q252	Satisfaction with the political system	1=Not at all satisfied 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10=Completely satisfied	*No changes*
Q253	Respect for human rights	1=A great deal 2=Fairly much 3=Not much 4=No respect at all	4=A great deal 3=Fairly much 2=Not much 1=No respect at all
Q254	National pride	1=Very proud 2=Quite proud 3=Not very proud 4=Not at all proud	4=Very proud 3=Quite proud 2=Not very proud 1=Not at all proud
Q255-259	Identity levels	1=Very close 2=Close 3=Not very close 4=Not close at all	4=Very close 3=Close 2=Not very close 1=Not close at all
Q260-286	Demography questions	Primary nominal scales	*No changes*
Q287	Social class	1=Upper class 2=Upper middle class 3=Lower middle class 4=Working class 5=Lower class	5=Upper class 4=Upper middle class 3=Lower middle class 2=Working class 1=Lower class
Q288-290	Demography questions	Primary nominal scales	*No changes*