

Weighting European Values Survey data

The weights included in EVS data are post-stratification weights adjusting socio-structural characteristic as gender and age in the sample to the distribution of the target population/universe and correcting for regional disproportions. We recommend the usage of the weights when computing tables or percentages for one country or when comparing data for two or more countries separately. As most countries taking part in EVS surveys have similar sample size (no matter how large or small their populations are), references to the average of countries or country groups additionally require the application of a population size weight. Such a weight is not included in EVS data so far.

For EVS wave 2008, the weights have been computed by the EVS for all national datasets on basis of information and population statistics provided by the EVS countries. For the EVS waves 1999, 1990, and 1981 the weights described below are based on the original weights provided by the EVS countries.

Description of weight variables

1. Longitudinal Data File 1981-2008

Two weighting variable s017 'weight' and s017a 'weight [with split ups]' are provided in the Longitudinal Data File. The following table summarizes the content of the weight variables and their construction from weights in individual waves.

Overview of weights in Longitudinal Data File and EVS waves

Longitudinal Data File 1981-2008 Study No. 4804 (v2.0.0) <i>doi:</i> 10.4232/1.11005 *	EVS wave 2008** Study No. 4800 (v3.0.0) <i>doi:</i> 10.4232/1.11004 *	EVS wave 1999** Study No. 3811 (v.3.0.0) <i>doi:</i> 10.4232/1.10789 *	EVS wave 1990 Study No. 4460 (v.3.0.0) <i>doi:</i> 10.4232/1.10790 *	EVS wave 1981 Study No. 4438 (v.3.0.0) <i>doi:</i> 10.4232/1.10791 *
s017: weight corrects for socio-structural characteristics and regional disproportion	weight_g corrects for gender and age; additionally for regional disproportion of Germany and Belgium	weight_g most countries: corrects for gender, age, and region	weight_g corrects for gender and age; additionally: Germany for region; United States for race and Italy for education	weight_g corrects for age (additional booster quota sample of young adults aged 18-24)
s017a: weight [with split ups] Germany West and East corrects for socio-structural characteristics and regional disproportion but weights East and West German samples separately	weight_s corrects for gender and age; for Belgium additionally for region; deals with Germany West and Germany East separately	weight_s corrects for gender and age; deals with Germany West and Germany East separately	weight_s corrects for gender and age; additionally: United States for race and Italy for education; deals with Germany West and Germany East separately	-- only Germany West included (no split variable necessary)

* By clicking on a DOI name, the study description of the survey in GESIS Data Catalogue will be accessed providing further methodological information on the surveys as well as data and documentation for download.

**For some countries, additional country-specific weights are provided in the national data sets.

The weights **s017** and **s017a** correct for socio-structural characteristics (mainly gender and age) and additionally for some countries for regional disproportion.

They only differ with regard to Germany (Germany united or East/West Germany separated):

- Variable **s017** adjusts the East and West German samples of EVS 1990, 1999, and 2008 to their respective proportions in the united Germany. It should be applied whenever the united Germany (East and West) is analyzed as a whole.
- Variable **s017a** weights East and West German samples separately and reproduces the original number of cases for each subsample. This weight includes the weight **s017** for all other countries and should be applied whenever East or West Germany is analyzed separately.

National weighting factors have not been provided continuously for all countries (cases of such countries carry the weight of 1):

- EVS wave 1999: Belarus, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Turkey
- EVS wave 1990: Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Northern Ireland, and Czech Republic
- EVS wave 1981: Norway, Sweden, and Malta.

2. EVS wave 2008

Weight_g is constructed on the basis of gender and age categories (-24; 25-34; ...; 65-74; 75 and over). Cases with missing values on variable 'year of birth' and/or 'gender' carry a **weight_g** of zero. When applying **weight_g**, such cases (n=297) are excluded from analysis, but do remain in the data file. A special weight factor for the regions of Germany (East and West) and Belgium (Brussels capital region, Flanders and Walloon region) is included in **weight_g**. It corrects for the disproportional sample size of these regions in both countries. With regard to Germany, this weight should be applied whenever the united Germany (East and West) is analyzed as a whole.

Weight_s [country-specific] adjusts East and West German samples for gender and age separately and reproduces the original number of cases for each subsample. It includes **weight_g** for all other countries and has to be applied whenever East or West Germany is analyzed separately.

The current weight variables should be used with caution, especially when the weights are "big", say outside the 0.50-2.00 range.

For summarized information on sampling procedure, fieldwork, weighting, see: [Extended study description EVS 2008](http://info1.gesis.org/EVS/Studies/) (<http://info1.gesis.org/EVS/Studies/>) and the EVS Method Report (EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 010/17) at: <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

3. EVS wave 1999

Weight_g contains national weights. For most countries gender, age, and region were adjusted to the distribution in the universe. For Germany additionally the disproportional East and West German samples have been adjusted. With regard to Germany, this weight should be applied whenever the united Germany (East and West) is analyzed as a whole.

Weight_s [country-specific] adjusts East and West German samples for gender and age separately and reproduces the original number of cases for each subsample. It includes **weight_g** for all other countries and has to be applied whenever East or West Germany is analyzed separately.

For summarized information on sampling procedure, fieldwork, weighting, see: Loek Halman, The European Values Study: A Third Wave. Source book of the 1999/2000 European Values Study Surveys. Tilburg: EVS, WORC, Tilburg University 2001 at: www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-1999-2000/dataanddocumentation/.

4. EVS wave 1990

Weight_g adjusts the national samples for gender and age to the distribution in the universe. For Germany additionally the disproportional East and West German samples have been adjusted. It should be applied whenever the united Germany (East and West) is analyzed as a whole. The US sample was also weighted for race and the Italian sample was additionally corrected for level of education.

Weight_s [country-specific] adjusts East and West German samples for gender and age separately and reproduces the original number of cases for each subsample. It includes **weight_g** for all other countries and has to be applied whenever East or West Germany is analyzed separately.

5. EVS wave 1981

Weight_g adjusts the national samples for age to the distribution in the universe. The target number of interviews in each country was set at 1000, with an additional booster quota sample of 200 young adults aged 18-24.

6. Finding specific information on weights

There are multiple ways of finding specified weighting information on EVS data. These include Variable and Method Reports as well as online facilities.

Please access the website of the European Values Study for an overview of data and documentation provided for the [EVS Surveys \(http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/\)](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/).

Overview of information sources

	EVS 1981	EVS 1990	EVS 1999	EVS 2008	Longitudinal Data File	Provision of...
Variable Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	information on general weights as well as on country-specific weighting procedures including weighted tables
Method Reports				✓		country-specific information on weighting
Online Study Description				✓		country-specific information on weighting
Sourcebook			✓			country-specific information on weighting
Online Study Catalogue ZACAT	✓	✓	✓	✓		online analysis facility including the possibility of using weights
Online Variable Overview	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	standard documentation of weight variables