

CSES 1-CSES 3 Harmonized Trend File - Overview

Citation

Heiko Giebler, Josephine Lichteblau, Antonia May, Reinhold Melcher, Aiko Wagner & Bernhard Weßels. CSES MODULE 1-3 HARMONIZED TREND FILE [dataset]. May 31, 2016 version. doi: 10.7804/cses.trendfile.2016-05-31

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The CSES Harmonized Trend File covers all variables of all election studies that are covered by CSES modules 1 to 3. As opposed to just creating a merged dataset containing each variable for each wave, we cumulated, and partly integrated, all micro- and macro-level variables (except for the ID, weighting and administrative variables) that are part of at least two of the three waves. This means that for those variables there is only one variable containing all cases of all (or up to) three waves in the harmonized dataset. The numerical codes of these integrated variables have the same meanings across all country studies in all CSES waves. However, not all variables occurring in two or more CSES waves could be integrated. Therefore, there is a second type of variable, cumulated variables, whose numeric codes differ in their meaning across the waves (for a more detailed description of the types of variables see the pdf-document *CSES1-3_Documentation*). In order to integrate as many variables as possible, a number of (re)coding decisions had to be made, e.g. reducing the number of categories, which sometimes led to a loss of information for some variables. All relevant information on the harmonization and recoding decisions can also be found in the pdf document *CSES1-3_Documentation* (for a list of all documents and files available for download see below).¹

Due to the large size of the Harmonized Trend File we split up the dataset. Next to the complete dataset containing all harmonized and modified variables as well as all original variables of CSES modules 1 to 3 (CSES1-3_harmonized_complete), there are two smaller datasets available for download: one only containing the harmonized and modified variables plus the original administrative variables of CSES Modules 1 to 3 (CSES1-

¹ Individual Stata do-files for each CSES module preparing and modifying the original data for the harmonization as well as the do-file modifying and recoding the party and leader codes are available on request.

3_harmonized_only) and a dataset only containing the original variables of CSES Modules 1 to 3 (CSES1-3_original). Note that the two smaller datasets can be merged together using the Respondent ID variable which is present in each dataset.

Files available for download:

File	Description
CSES1-3_harmonized_complete.dta	CSES Modules 1-3 Harmonized Trend File in Stata format. The complete CSES 1-3 Harmonized Trend File including all harmonized, modified and original CSES variables.
CSES1-3_harmonized_only.dta	CSES Modules 1-3 Harmonized Trend File in Stata format. Only the harmonized and modified variables are present in this data set.
CSES1-3_original.dta	CSES Modules 1-3 Harmonized Trend File in Stata format. Only the original CSES variables (from the original CSES Module 1-3 data sets) are present in this data set.
Note that the CSES1-3_harmonized_only and CSES1-3_original datasets can be merged together using the Respondent ID variable which is present in each dataset. This results in the CSES1-3_harmonized_complete dataset.	
CSES1-3_Documentation.docx	Documents the recoding decisions being made for the harmonization of the CSES datasets. The document also contains some general remarks and notes for working with the integrated dataset as well as a list of variables.
CSES1-3_AppendixA_PartiesAndCandidates.xlsx	Documents the party and leader names for each CSES study of the harmonized dataset for the variables applying party and leader codes.
CSES1-3_AppendixB_CoverageVariables.xlsx	Overview table of variable coverage by election study (1 = data available for the respective variable).
CSES1-3_AppendixC_Coverage Elections.xlsx	Overview table of election coverage by CSES waves 1 to 3 by country (highlighted rows/elections = covered)