

In harmony: Exploring the feasibility of ex-post harmonisation of European Social Survey and European Values Study items

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europeansocialsurvey.org

ESS is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC)

europeanvaluesstudy.eu

Structure of the presentation

1. Introduction

- Comparison of EVS and ESS

2. Methodology

- Selection of compatible items
- Criteria used to compare the items
- Further selection of items and countries

3. Results

4. Conclusions, limitations and next steps

Enhancing links with other infrastructures – ESS-SUSTAIN-2

- One of the main objectives of Work Package 2 was to create closer links between the ESS and EVS
- The objective was to bridge EVS measures into ESS items to maintain the EVS time series
When bridging is not possible, the EVS team will select questions to potentially fill a 30-item module on future rounds of the ESS



European *Values* Study





Comparison of the ESS and the EVS

- The ESS is a biannual cross-national survey designed to measure changing social attitudes and values in Europe. The EVS is a cross-national survey, conducted every nine years, focused on changing moral and social values

	European Social Survey	European Values Study
Abbreviation	ESS	EVS
Time span	2002 – Present	1981 – Present
Frequency	Every 2 years	Every 9 years
Waves to date	10	5
Design	Cross-sectional	Cross-sectional
Central topics	Climate change, crime, human values, media and internet use, national and ethnic identity, perceived discrimination, politics, religion, social exclusion, social trust, subjective wellbeing	Perceptions of life, work, religion and morale, family, politics and society, national identity, environment
Data access	Free of charge for non-commercial use	Free of charge for non-commercial use
Website	https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/	https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/

Geographic comparison of the ESS and the EVS

In terms of geographical coverage, both the ESS and the EVS mostly collect data in European countries. Participating countries vary across data collection rounds/waves, with Figure 1 displaying those taking part in ESS Round 9 (2018) and EVS Wave 5 (2017)

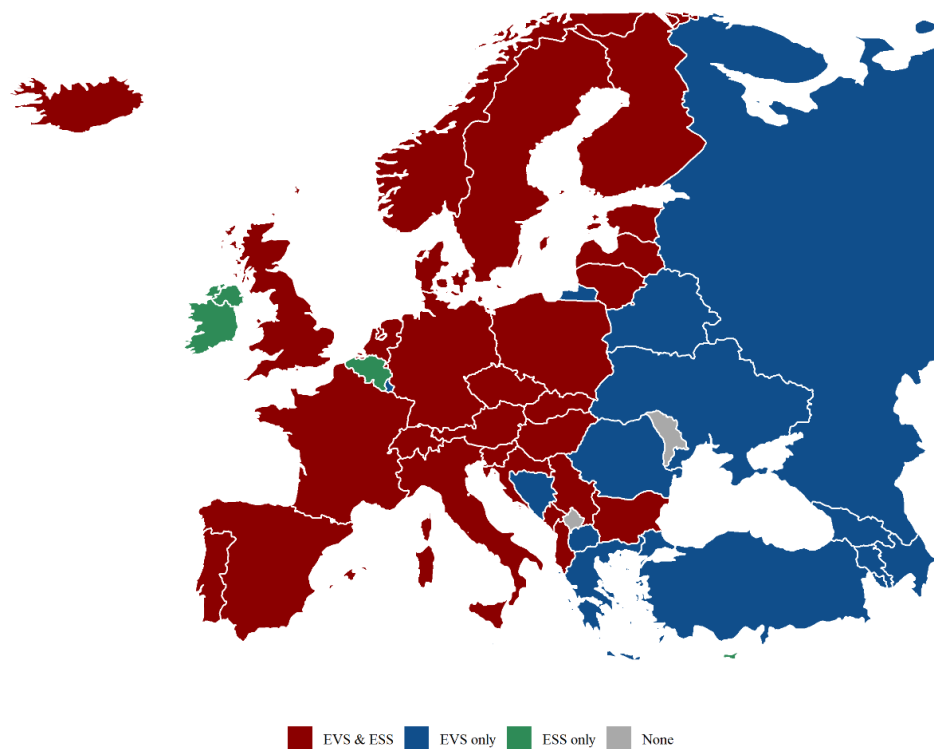


Figure 1: Distribution of EVS Wave 5 (2017) and ESS Round 9 (2018) surveys in European countries

Methodological comparison

Comparison of source questionnaires

EVS Wave 5 – ESS Round 10

>> 75 potentially comparable item pairs

Data comparison

EVS Wave 5 – ESS Round 9

>> 24 substantive items

Comparison of item pairs

using 17 attributes grouped into four domains: 1) question attributes, 2) interviewer role, 3) response attributes and 4) showcards

>> overlapping score ranging from 35 to 100
 $M = 75.8\%$ ($SD = 21.3$)

Data comparison

Goal:

To assess the extent to which matched items yield similar results



Challenges:

- Definition of “similar results”
- Differences in data collection may confound differences in measurement
 - Minimize differences within country/across survey
- Not many analytical techniques to test validity and reliability for single-item measures
- Comparison of different response scales

	<u>Fieldwork duration (days)</u>		<u>Response rates</u>		<u>Sample sizes</u>	
	ESS	EVS	ESS	EVS	ESS	EVS
Germany	188	164	28%	28%	2358	1494
Norway	225	118	43%	55%	1406	1124
Slovenia	131	85	64%	60%	1318	1076

Note: sample sizes are achieved, not effective. In Norway, 145 EVS interviews conducted over the phone (CATI) were excluded, resulting in a sample size of 977.

Analytical approach

- **Study population**

18 and over (exclude 15-17 from ESS)

- **Mode of data collection**

Full-length face-to-face interviews
(exclude CAWI/Mail 3,913 cases from DE
and 145 CATI cases from NO)

- **Variable prep**

Measures are transformed (rescaled,
recoded) to increase comparability when
needed

- **Weights**

The analyses are based on weighted data
(best available weights → ESS: post-
stratification weights; EVS: calibration
weights)

- **Analytical comparison**

- Validity (partial correlations)
- Reliability (when possible)
- Comparison of distributions
- Nonsubstantive responses

Results: Some examples

(Ever) belong to a religious denomination

Political orientation

Belonging to trade unions

(Ever) belong to a religious denomination

Overlapping score: 100%

	ESS	EVS
Question #	C11	Q13
Question stem	Do you consider yourself as belonging to any particular religion or denomination?	Do you belong to a religious denomination?
Question #	C13	Q14
Question stem	Have you <u>ever</u> considered yourself as belonging to any particular religion or denomination?	Did you ever belong to a religious denomination?
Response options	1 – Yes 2 – No	1 – Yes 2 – No
Target variable	Dummy coded 0 – No 1 – Yes	



(Ever) belong to a religious denomination

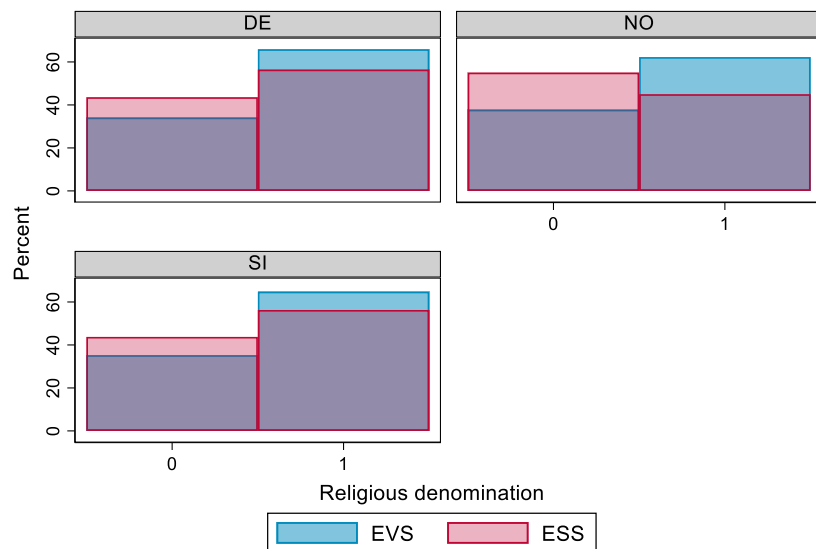
Validity test: largely similar patterns of results across surveys

	Belong			Ever belonged		
	DE	NO	SI	DE	NO	SI
Religious person						
Age						
Educational level						
Female						
In paid work						

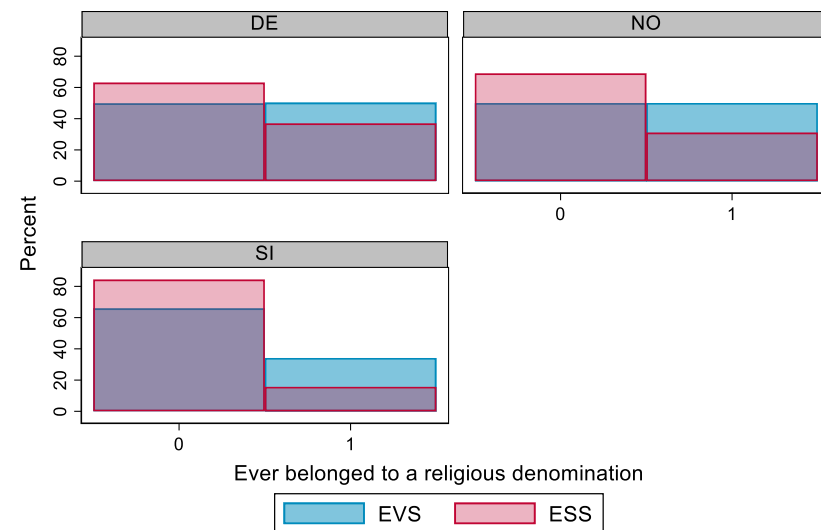
	Partial correlation in same direction & difference < 0.15
	Partial correlation in same direction & difference > 0.15
	Partial correlation in different direction & difference > 0.15

(Ever) belong to a religious denomination

Distributions: significant differences across surveys



Source: EVS 5(2020), ESS 9(2020) - weighted data



Source: EVS 5(2020), ESS 9(2020) - weighted data

Chi-square test: significant differences in all 3 countries

Significantly more positives in EVS

Item non response: significantly higher in EVS in NO

Chi-square test: significant differences in all 3 countries

Significantly more positives in EVS

Item non response: significantly higher in EVS

Political orientation

Overlapping score: 76%

	ESS	EVS
Question #	B26	Q31
Question stem	In politics people sometimes talk of “left” and “right”. Using this card, where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right?	In political matters, people talk of ‘the left’ and ‘the right’. How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?
Response options	0 – Left.... 10 – Right	1 – The left ... 10 – The right
Target variable (joint)	Same as source variables	
Target variable (harmonised)	$\text{Stretched political orientation} = \left(\frac{\text{Political orientation}_{EVS} - 1}{10 - 1} \right) * 10$	

Political orientation

Validity test: largely similar patterns of results across surveys

	DE	NO	SI
Age			
Educational level			
Female			
In paid work			

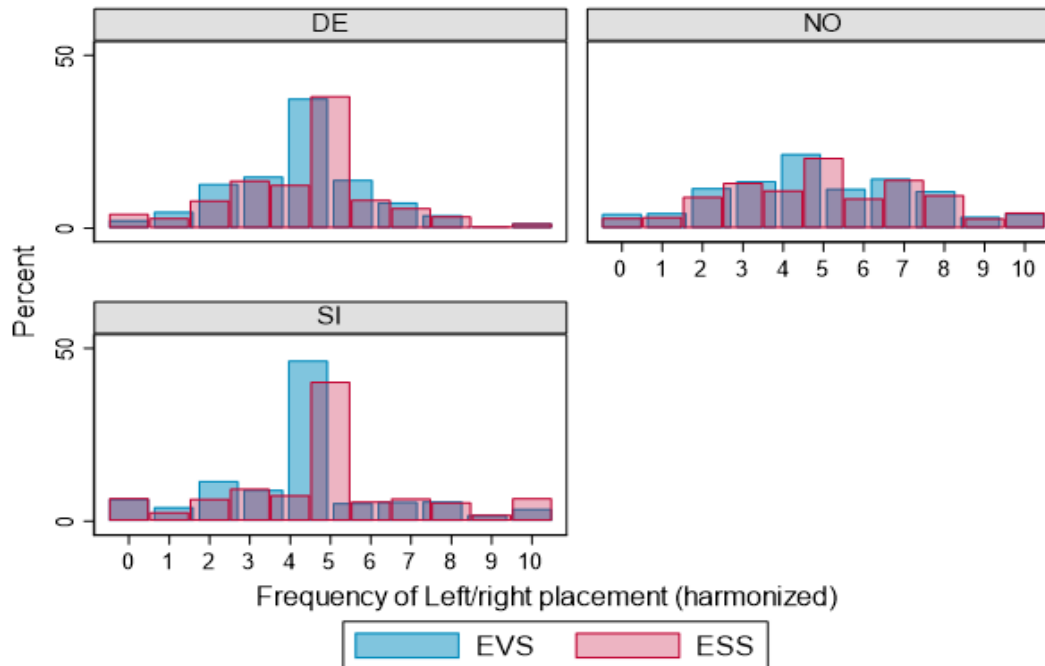
	Partial correlation in same direction & difference < 0.15
	Partial correlation in same direction & difference > 0.15
	Partial correlation in different direction & difference > 0.15

Note: for this test, the joint variable was used



Political orientation

Distributions: significant differences across surveys



Source: EVS 5(2020), ESS 9(2020) - weighted data

T-test: Significant differences in means across surveys in DE (Cohen's $d = 0.08$) & SI (Cohen's $d = 0.24$)

Item non response: significant differences across surveys, but small proportions overall

Note: for these tests, the harmonised variable was used

Belonging to trade unions

Overlapping score: 35%

	ESS	EVS
Question #	F39	Q4
Question stem	Are you or have you ever been a member of a trade union or similar organisation? IF YES, is that currently or previously?	Please look carefully at the following list of voluntary organisations and say which, if any, do you belong to? Trade unions
Response options	1 – Yes, currently 2 – Yes, previously 3 – No	1 – Mentioned 2 – Not mentioned
Target variable		Dummy coded 0 – No 1 – Yes

Belonging to trade unions

Validity test: largely similar patterns of results across surveys

	DE	NO	SI
Age			
Educational level			
Female			
In paid work			
Boycot product			
Attended demonstration			
Signed a petition			



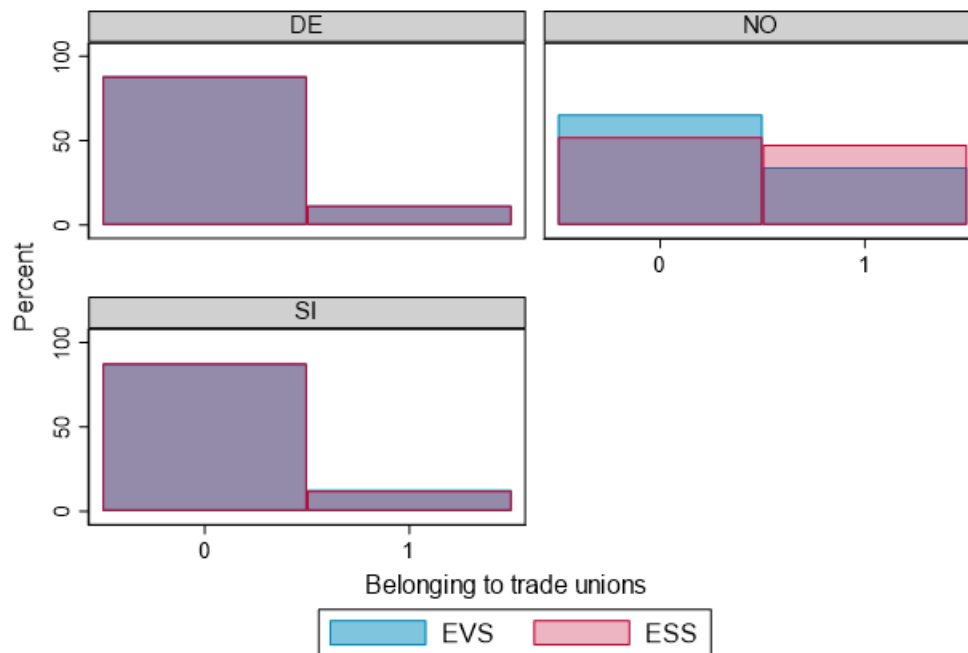
Partial correlation in same direction & difference < |0.15|

Partial correlation in same direction & difference > |0.15|

Partial correlation in different direction & difference > |0.15|

Belonging to trade unions

Distributions: no significant differences across surveys in DE and SI



Source: EVS 5(2020), ESS 9(2020) - weighted data

Chi-square test: significant differences in NO

Significantly more positives in ESS

Item non response: significantly higher in ESS in NO

Summary

Comparison of
source
questionnaires
EVS Wave 5 – ESS
Round 10

Data comparison
EVS Wave 5 – ESS Round 9
>> 24 substantive items

Limitations:

- Differences in data collection/methodology cannot be completely ruled out
- Three most similar countries.. And the others?
- Narrow definition of comparability
- Validity tests: constraints on correlates

Comparison of item
pairs
using 17 attributes grouped
into four domains: 1)
question attributes, 2)
interviewer role, 3) response
attributes and 4) showcards

Summary

Comparison of
source
questionnaires
EVS Wave 5 – ESS
Round 10

Data comparison
EVS Wave 5 – ESS Round 9
>> 24 substantive items

- Overall,
- Similar validity (comparable patterns of partial correlations)
 - Similar item non-response
 - Differences in distributions
 - No consistent patterns across countries
 - Differences across variables

Comparison of item
pairs
using 17 attributes grouped
into four domains: 1)
question attributes, 2)
interviewer role, 3) response
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Next steps:
Design of EVS Module & Pre-testing

Experimental comparisons?
Ex-post harmonisation for joint time series?



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