ICELANDIC CANDIDATE SURVEY – 2009 (ICECS)

Candidate study notes for the Comparative Candidate Survey

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The Icelandic Candidate Survey (ICECS) was carried out in summer 2010, one year after the election in 2009. The person responsible for the ICECS was Eva Heiða Önnudóttir, a research analyst employed by Bifrost University at the time the survey was carried out. Katrín Bjarney Guðjónsdóttir, a law student from the University of Reykjavik was hired to prepare the sample, the questionnaire, macro report and data gathering under the supervision of Eva Heiða.

Data gathering mode:
The survey was sent via email the June 30th. Three reminders were sent to respondents, the latest one in late August. In September those candidates that had not responded were called and asked for their participation; and those that said yes were sent the survey one more time. Four respondents choose to reply to the survey over the phone.

Candidates, population and response rate:
Lists of candidates were gathered from the public website kosning.is (i.e. election (.is)). Email lists were gathered from the parties running. There were seven parties running for the election in 2009; The Social Democratic Alliance, the Progressive Party, the Independence Party, the Left Green Movement, the Liberal Party, the Civic Movement and the Democratic Movement. Neither the Liberal Party nor the Democratic Movement got a candidate elected. As the Liberal Party had MPs before the election they were included in ICECS. The candidates of the Democratic Movement were not part of the ICECS.

The total number of candidates included in the survey was 756. Of them 504 started the survey or 66.7%. Around 50% of the candidates finished the survey. For example 361 respondent’s replied to the first question (are you male or female) in the last part of the survey (E) or 47.8%.

Below are notes about the country specific variables in the CCS data, and additional notes about were needed.
Country specific variable and additional study notes

T6  R’s constituency ID
Country specific value labels are:
1 'North East district'
2 'North West district'
4 'South district'
5 'South West district'
6 'Reykjavik South district'
7 'Reykjavik North district'

A1  For which party did you stand as a candidate?
Country specific value labels are:
1 'Social Democratic Alliance'
2 'Progressive Party'
3 'Independence Party'
4 'Left Green Movement'
5 'Liberal Party'
6 'Civic Movement'

A2  In what year did you join this party?
Variable is recoded into three categories for confidentiality.

A3b1- A3b6  If so: which party?
Not published.

A4a - A4a5  Stood as a candidate?
A4b1 - A4b5  Elected?
Not published.
A5b_cat IF YES [1 in A5a]: For how many years? - two categories
Variable is recoded into two categories for confidentiality.

A6b_cat IF YES [1 in A6a]: For how many years? - two categories
Variable is recoded into two categories for confidentiality.

A8a How many years local party office?
A8b How many years regional party office?
A8c How many years national party office?
Questions A8a to A8c were not asked due to a mistake in data gathering.

9a Years served as mayor?
Question A9a was not asked as there is only one city in Iceland that elects a mayor. It was known beforehand that only one candidate had served as mayor.

A9b_cat Years served as member of local government? four categories
Variable is recoded into four categories for confidentiality.

A9c Years served as member of regional government?
Question A9c was not applicable. There are no regional governments in Iceland, only local government and the national government.

A9d Years served as member of national government?
Question A9c was not asked due to a mistake in data gathering.

A9e Years served as member of a local assembly?
There is no local assembly as such in Iceland, only local governments.
A9f  Years served as member of a regional assembly?
Question A9c was not applicable. There are no regional governments in Iceland, only local government and the national government.

A9g  Years served as member of the national parliament?
Not published.

A9h  Years served as member of the European parliament?
Question A9h is not applicable for Iceland as the country is not a member of the European Union.

A10b._cat IF YES: for how many years?
Variable is recoded into five categories for confidentiality.

A11a4 Different constituency: been a mayor?
Not published.

A11b1 Different constituency candidate: For how many years?
Not published.

A11b3 Member of local assembly in different constituency: For how many years?
Not published.

A11b4 Mayor in different constituency: For how many years?
Not published.

A12  # hours devoted to party activities in an average month?
The value label 900 'Less than 1 hour' was added.
**B3a  Who made the decision about your nomination?**
The members of the Civic Movement chose its candidates at informal open meetings of all members were they reached an agreement about the ranking of members on party lists. All members of the Civic Movement are coded as 4'a party delegate conference' in B3a.

**B3b  At what level was the decision of your nomination made?**
The members of the Civic Movement chose its candidates at informal open meetings of all members were they reached an agreement about the ranking of members on party lists. All members of the Civic Movement are coded as 4'other level' in B3b.

**B4  # hours devoted to campaigning during the last month ahead of the election? (3 digit code, e.g. 0 8 0 )**
The value label 900'Less than 1 hour' was added.

**B5b6  Importance of campaign activities: local and regional radio and TV interviews?**
Question B5b6 was not asked as very few local radio stations are run in Iceland (2-3 stations) and no local or regional TV.

**B7  Primary aim of campaign [11 point scale]?**
Note the question about the primary aim of the campaign is on an 11 point scale; from 0 to 10. In the code-book the highest number is 11.

**B9a  Used own webpage provided by the party**
**B9b  Used own webpage provided by my local campaign**
**B9c  Used email lists**
**B9d  Offered a personal campaign spot on the web**
**B9e  Conducted online chats with voters**
**B9f  Advertised my webpage and/or email address on campaign literature**
**B9g  Used a blog**
In questions B9a to B9g, respondents were asked to mark which medium they used; therefore it is not possible to distinguish between those that reply "no" or are “missing”: they are all coded as 9 'no answer'
**B11B** (referred to as B9B in the questionnaire). Size of campaign team in constituency? [three digit code]
Question B11B about the size of the campaign team in constituency was not asked due to a mistake in data gathering.

**B11C2** (referred to as B9C in the questionnaire). Size personal campaign [three digit code]
Not published.

**B11D** (referred to as B9D in the questionnaire). # members paid by party [three digit code]
Not published.

**B14a** (referred to as B12 in the questionnaire). Contribution by the party? [six digit code; reference currency is Euro – use the exchange rate of the election day in case of different currency]
**B14b** (referred to as B12 in the questionnaire). Contribution from donations? [six digit code; reference currency is Euro – use the exchange rate of the election day in case of different currency]
**B14c** (referred to as B12 in the questionnaire). Contribution from own private funds? [six digit code; reference currency is Euro – use the exchange rate of the election day in case of different currency]
In questions B14a, B14b and B14c respondents were asked about the ratio of the campaign budget was from the party, donations or private funds. The ratio was than calculated into euros depending on the total budget in B13.

**B15** (referred to as B13 in the questionnaire). Members of central party leadership visited in constituency
Added the value label 4'leaders campaigned in the same constituency'.
C2l  [Country] should provide military assistance to the “war on terror”
C2l was not included as Iceland has no military

D3a  Who should an MP represent in parliament: own voters in constituency
D3b  Who should an MP represent in parliament: own party voters in constituency
D3c  Who should an MP represent in parliament: all citizens in constituency
D3d  Who should an MP represent in parliament: the party electorate at large
D3e  Who should an MP represent in parliament: members of a social group
D3f  Who should an MP represent in parliament: the [country] citizenry

Question D3d was not asked due to a mistake in data gathering.
Some respondents ranked some or all possibilities as equally important. Those that do not apply ranking are coded as 9'no answer'. The number of respondent that did not rank is 49.

E4a  Objective size (thousands inhabitants) of residential community [six digits code]
It was possible to link the responses of 174 candidates with the sample using the candidate’s party, his rank on the party list and constituency, in order to link the candidate’s postal code with his replies. Information about the population in each postal code is from Statistics Iceland, referring to January 1, 2009. The population in postal codes of cities and bigger towns were summed for each town / city.

E4b  N of years R has been living there [two digits code]
Those that have lived “there” in less than 1 year are coded as 0.

E6a  Level of education, recoded into seven common categories
The question about education did not included the possibility to mark “university degree incomplete”.

E7a  IF SELF-EMPLOYED: Previous employment status
Added the value label 997'Not applicable' and 9'Other, not in labour force'.

E1  Denomination
Question E1 was not asked. The reason is because the Icelandic population is very homogenous when it comes to denomination. About 80% of the population are members of the Protestant church (state church) and even if the exact numbers are not provided here, it can be stated for sure that almost all
young people who get denominated are done so by the Protestant church. If the CCS team want’s the Icelandic team to provide the exact numbers, please notify the Icelandic team. Additionally religion is not (at least not for the time being) an issue or a cleavage in Icelandic politics.

E2_cat Year of birth [four digit code] five categories
Variable is recoded into four categories for confidentiality.

E12c  Dependent adults in care?
Question E12c was not asked. It was not believed to be applicable in Iceland, as most dependent’s adults are in public care (health care etc.).

E13  Ethnic background [four digit code, see Appendix 6 for national specific codes]
Question E13 was not asked. The population of Icelandic candidates are very homogenous when it comes to ethnic background – at least for now.

E3  Where were you born?
E3a  IF ABROAD: country
Not published (13 respondents said they were not born in Iceland).

E4a_cat  Objective size (thousands inhabitants) of residential community [six digits code] - five categories
Variable is recoded into five categories for confidentiality.

E4b_cat  N of years R has been living there [two digits code] - five categories
Variable is recoded into five categories for confidentiality.

E6b  IF UNIVERSITY: What was your discipline?
Not published.

E7  Current employment status
E7a  IF SELF-EMPLOYED: Previous employment status
E8  Current/previous occupation
Not published.

E11  Marital status
E12a  Number of children in care < 5 years old
E12b  Number of children in care 5 – 15 years old
Not published.

E14  Constituency number [four digit code, see Appendix 6 for national specific codes]
Country specific value labels:
1'North East district'
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