

## Governing principles Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS)

1. The Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) is a joint multi-national project with the goal of collecting data on candidates running for national parliamentary elections in different countries using a common core questionnaire to allow for cross-country comparison. Data collection comprises surveys among candidates as well as relevant context information concerning the constituency of the candidate and the political system at large.
2. National CCS teams commit to conduct surveys using the common core questionnaire in its entirety. They make their data (micro- and macro) available for comparative data sets without any embargo or restrictions other than mandatory country specific confidentiality requirements. CCS teams also ensure that the national data is available either through social science data archives or similar institutions.
3. CCS has one partner per country and only a single survey is conducted using the CCS label in each country for national elections. CCS country representatives/teams coordinate with researchers within their country on post-election candidate surveys to avoid that multiple surveys with long and equal or similar questions are in the field after an election.
4. In the plenary meeting which takes place at least once every five years, each country has one vote. The plenary meeting:
  - a. elects a Steering Committee,
  - b. elects a Planning Committee,
  - c. decides on the common core questionnaire for the next round of candidate surveys for a five year period, and
  - d. decides on the constituency- and country-level data to be collected and associated with the micro-level data.
5. The Steering Committee meets at least once a year and has the following tasks:
  - a. Organising plenary meetings
  - b. Overseeing data integration and data availability
  - c. Promoting the CCS worldwide
  - d. Funding of CCS operations
  - e. Maintaining the CCS website
6. The Planning Committee is responsible for organising the questionnaire development process and for submitting a draft core questionnaire for a next round of candidate surveys to the plenary meeting. The questionnaire development process should be transparent and open to interested researcher through an open call for modules.
7. A Comparative dataset is made available through a specialised social science data archive. The data archive also makes country-specific data available if this data is not accessible through other data archives or similar institutions. The data archive agrees to:
  - a. Preserve the data and documentation according to standard techniques,
  - b. Make the data and documentation available to third parties for analytic purposes,
  - c. Inform users about the data and their contractual and legal obligations, which are notably,
    - To respect data protection laws, in particular regarding the release of information that would allow the identification of individual respondents.
    - To completely cite the data source, the institution, and the researchers that produce the data,
    - To use the data and instruments only for their own purposes.

*Approved September 2013.*