

Results of the Steering Committee Meeting of the CCS in Frankfurt, 15 February 2013

The meeting started at 11:10 hrs, and ended at 17 hrs.

Participants: Ioannis Andreadis, Thessaloniki; Zsolt Enyedi, Budapest; Andre Freire, Lisbon; Heiko Giebler, Berlin; Georg Lutz, Lausanne; Wolfgang Rüdig, Glasgow; Hermann Schmitt, Manchester and Mannheim; Paolo Segatti, Milano; Peter Selb, Konstanz; Bernhard Weßels, Berlin; Lieven de Winter, Louvain.

Welcome, Introduction

The Chair of the Steering Committee of the CCS, Hermann Schmitt, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He mentioned the sad passing away of Hanne Marthe Narud, a member of the CCS Steering Committee, last summer. Hanne Marthe was a great scholar who has contributed to many important studies, not least to the success of the CCS. The Chair asked the participants of the meeting to always remember her as one of us.

Progress data integration (countries/elections included/missing); data availability (technical, archiving and legal issues)

Data integration has been progressing slowly over the past year. While 17 surveys from 15 countries have been deposited, an initiative to support the data integration work with a grant proposal submitted at the ESRC failed. The Mannheim (MZES) based CCS data operation, on the other hand, lacked adequate funding and, as consequence, sufficient manpower.

It is upon this background that the meeting welcomed a Swiss initiative to take care of the micro-data of the CCS. Participants were in favour of entrusting the Swiss Data and Research Information Services at FORS, Lausanne, to take care of the process of CCS micro-data documentation, checking, and integration, beginning with wave one of the CCS data collections.

It was also agreed that the Chair of the Steering Committee will get in contact with the national study teams and data providers and ask for their agreement to supply the CCS micro data to the Swiss data archive for archival deposition and for distribution to the scientific community. (A draft contract for the government of data distribution is attached to these results; see appendix 1). It is intended to entrust Georg Lutz, the Swiss contributor to the CCS project and member of the CCS Steering Committee, to authorise individual requests for the CCS micro-data files once it has been put together.

Micro-macro interactions

It is understood, however, that this FORS perspective will not be able to serve as an all-purpose solution. More in particular, FORS will not assume responsibility for the merging of micro- and macro-data. With regard to macro-data, the situation is such that they have been collected in just a few of the participating countries (Germany and Switzerland among them). This calls for a pragmatic solution to rescue at least some basic micro-macro analytic perspectives. Against this background, it was agreed for CCS I that:

- System-level data should be copied from the CSES data collection and made available to the project. This covers some 75 % of the respective CCS wish list, the only missing information here is on candidate selection procedures (which perhaps need to be identified by the survey itself anyhow).
- Constituency-level information is also thought to be copied from existing data bases. One important aspect here is the electoral background of constituencies (past election results). Peter Selb volunteered to apply, together with the chair of the CCS Steering Committee, for a grant from the University of Konstanz to collect this information as available from web sources, in order to make it available to the project. Other political and economic aspects of the constituency context might be available from other sources, and Ioannis Andreadis is looking into possibilities in that regard.
- More generally, the task of micro-macro matching is meant to remain under CCS authority, while the micro-data business of the CCS is hoped to be handed over to the FORS data Archive.

CCS round II micro questionnaire (core questionnaire + module proposals)

An almost final version of the the CCS II questionnaire was agreed (attached), with a few final questions to be resolved by the subcommittee responsible for drafting the micro questionnaire in conjunction with the Steering Committee.

CCS round II macro questionnaire

To be dealt with in the light of the new strategy of assembling and providing macro-data.

Work ahead, next steps

- Micro-questionnaire to be distributed asap.
- Micro-data harmonisation to be handed over to the FORS data archive.
- System level macro-information to be copied from the CSES.
- Constituency level information to be collected (Selb & Schmitt application in Konstanz) or identified in the web (Andreadis).

Miscellaneous

The participant in the meeting expressed their gratitude to Georg Lutz who hosted the meeting – i.e. paid the Frankfurt bill – and covered the travel expenses of two the participants. Many thanks Georg!