

Minutes of the CCS meeting 5 September 2013 Bordeaux

Attendants: Ioannis Andreadis, Pierre Baudewyns, Asa Bengtsson, Patrick Dumont, Christian Elmelund-Præstekær, Zsolt Enyedi, Andre Freire, Heiko Giebler, Georg Lutz, Hermann Schmitt, Paolo Segatti, Nicolas Pekari

1. Data integration CCS round I

Georg Lutz presents the state of data integration CCS round I. He reports that the team involved in merging the data into a comparative file followed a very pragmatic approach and added all data that where available also in cases where many variables were missing. Overall, missing variables in some of the data sets is one of the key problems. The first round data set (1st release) has been downloaded almost 30 times from researchers from different parts of the world and also from outside the CCS network.

During the conference it was learned that candidate surveys based on the first CCS core questionnaire were also done in Luxemburg (2009), Romania (2012) and Malta (2013); these studies so far were not listed in the data summary. As far as it is known, a total of 17 candidate survey from 15 countries is still missing. The data integration team will work hard in getting the data in to release a second version of the data set by end of 2013/early 2014.

The macro data has not been integrated so far. Hermann Schmitt said it would be possible to get somebody working on this in Mannheim, if Mannheim does not need to be involved in the micro-data integration anymore. This will need to be discussed as resources for any task are still very limited.

The data integration team and the data archive also ask all researchers using the data to report any possible problem they might detect with the data back to FORS directly or via the data website.

2. Promotion CCS round II

Different country representatives report what has been planned for CCS round II.

- Hermann Schmitt: a candidate survey is planned in the UK and will be organized by Wolfgang Rüdig and Rosie Campbell for the 2015 elections.
- Georg Lutz: CCS II is part of the funding application of the Swiss election study
- Ioannis Andreadis: CCS II is planned for the next elections, the date of the elections is not known yet.
- Pierre Baudewijns: A candidate survey is planned for the Belgium elections. In addition to the national elections, local and European parliament elections will be studied.
- Zsolt Enyedi: CCS is planned for the next election in Hungary.
- Paolo Segatti: Italy has started to collect data on the elections from early 2013 (still using the round 1 questionnaire). However, it is difficult to run such a study in Italy because candidate addresses are not available centrally and very hard to gather.
- Christian Elmelung: CCS II will run in the next Danish election.
- Heiko Giebler: CCS will be conducted in three weeks after the German elections 2013.
- Patrick Dumont: Luxembourg will conduct a CCS at the next election.
- Andre Freire: an election study is planned for the next national election in Portugal.

Georg Lutz suggests that the CCS should be linked to the organisation and funding of the national voter study. This is not only desirable regarding the co-ordination in terms of questionnaires. Given that the funding for a candidate survey is just a small portion of the resources that are required for a voter survey the linkage strategy would increase the chances that candidate survey can be funded out of the respective NES budget.

It was pointed out that it would be valuable to have more detailed information on data collection procedures which will allow two things: (a) a better understanding of the quality of the data delivered, and (b) a better chance for the different country teams to learn from each other. This concerns survey administration as well as access to candidate addresses. Georg Lutz mentions that it may be wise to coordinate with local Voting Advice Applications (VAAs) which are mushrooming in many countries now. Those VAAs sometimes have a rather complete set of e-mail addresses of parliamentary candidates and may be willing to share those addresses with local CCS teams. This would also facilitate the use of web-surveys.

Ioannis Andreadis offered to provide an online version of the CCS II questionnaire (which he has already programmed in *Limesurvey*, an open-source web survey software with multi-lingual capacity) to any country team interested. The questionnaire does then only need to be translated.

3. Governance CCS

Hermann Schmitt explains the motivation for proposing a new CCS governance structure. The previous structure with different sub-committees whose members then form a steering committee did not really get to work since many of the sub-committees had not developed activities. The new model is expected to be a more effective instrument for running the CCS in the future.

Georg Lutz adds that the new proposal leans heavily on CSES. It should guarantee broad access and transparent procedures since the key decisions are taken by a plenary session where all CCS countries are (or can be) present. A smaller steering committee should be given the mandate to decide on day-to-day procedures suitable to move CCS forward in a more efficient way. The questionnaire development will be organized by a specialised sub-committee.

Asa Bengtson mentions that it would be good to add that CCS co-operates with one single partner or team in a country using the common core questionnaire. Georg Lutz adds that it is important to ensure that only one academic candidate survey is in the field, and that researchers in each country should try to coordinate among themselves to avoid fielding more than one survey. In many countries different interest groups and voting aid application already survey candidates and candidates may react negatively if they get different surveys with similar questions after the elections. A respective clause is added to the "Governing principles Comparative Candidate Survey".

Hermann Schmitt mentions that for the steering committee some persons have been asked and agreed to participate already. Those are Ioannis Andreadis, Asa Bengtsson, Zolt Enyedi, Andre Freire, Georg Lutz and Hermann Schmitt. Should other persons be willing to participate in the CCS steering committee, this would be more than welcome.

Herman Schmitt will organize an electronic vote among all CCS members for both the governing principles and the steering committee asap.

4. Joint publication CCS

Hermann Schmitt outlines that now the comparative data set is available it is also time to work on a book with the data. This will frame the study the role of candidates in elections both theoretically and empirically. Based on an initiative of Lieven de Winter, he proposed an edited volume with comparative chapters – rather than country chapters - on different issues which are part of the CCS questionnaire. As editors of this book, he proposes Lieven de Winter, Georg Lutz and Hermann Schmitt. Most if not all of the chapters should be written by scholars involved in CCS project which are willing and able to produce a comparative thematic chapter and the

authors should also constitute a mix of older and younger researchers. The CCS members present at Bordeaux welcomed this initiative.

Results: Georg Lutz