

Minutes of the CCS meeting 5 September 2014 Glasgow

Attendants: Ioannis Andreadis, Rosie Campbell, Heiko Giebler, Gabriela Ilonszki, Anne Jadot, Georg Lutz, Patrick Öhberg, Eva Heiða Önnudóttir, Wolfgang Rüdiger, Hermann Schmitt, Paolo Segatti, Jacques Thomassen, , Audrey Vandeleene, Thomas Zittel.

1. CCS Module 1: Comparative data file and data distribution

Georg presents the current state of the data integration and data distribution of CCS round I. In the new data file released in July 2014 (version 2.1) six new elections were added. The current file includes 24 elections from 19 countries with a total of 15'120 interviews (see table 1).

The process of data integration for the new data files has been as followed:

- Step 1: Delivery by country teams (including meta-data, data contract, questionnaire), formal check
- Step 2: Recoding and documentation by Tanja Binder (MZES)
- Step 3: Control by FORS (Nicolas Pekari), integration into the data set

Table 1 Country, years and number of cases included in the CCS data file 2.1

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1 Australia			470			247		
2 Switzerland			1719				1676	
3 Germany	1023				789			
4 Ireland			186					
5 Greece			241					
6 Finland			528				911	
7 Belgium			509					
8 Netherlands		170						
9 Canada				338				
10 Portugal					202		257	
11 Estonia							250	
12 Iceland					504			
13 Hungary						431		
14 Austria				966				
15 Sweden						1741		
16 Denmark							375	
17 Romania								407
18 Czech Republic		169						
19 Norway					1011			

There are still issues with missing data in the current data set. Some variables were not asked in all countries and some variables have a relatively high percentage of missing values.

Currently missing are the data sets from the following elections:

1. Belgium 2010, Greece 2009/2012, Netherlands 2010/2012, Malta 2013 and Ireland 2011 are promised to be delivered in the coming weeks.
2. Austria communicated that they currently have no resources to prepare the 2006 data (however the 2008 data has been included).
3. On Luxemburg 2009, New Zealand 2008 there is currently no information.
4. On the UK there have been ongoing discussions on how to make the data available (see also below).

The process of data distribution (through the FORS data services DARIS) is organized as followed:

- Step 1: Handing in user license (with short project description)
- Step 2: Approval by a member of the CCS steering committee member (currently Georg Lutz)
- Step 3: Data delivery

Up to now the CCS data has been requested 60 times. All requests came from members of academic institutions at different levels. Table 2 gives an overview of the countries where the requests came from.

Table 2 CCS data requests by country

Germany	11
USA	8
Switzerland	7
UK	5
Hungary, Canada	4
Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal	3
Greece, Norway, Sweden	2
Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Israel, Italy	1

In the following discussion,

- Wolfgang explained that the UK data has not been delivered so far because of concerns about the data distribution process. According to Wolfgang, the current way of distributing the data is not in line with the rules set by the UK data archive and the ethics committee at his university. Two possible solutions are discussed how the UK data could be made available: a) the UK data set is delivered through the UK data archive and can be requested there, b) FORS provides two different data sets, one with and one without the UK data. The latter data set is only distributed with the approval of the UK CCS country representative (Wolfgang). Wolfgang and Georg will try to find a solution in the next weeks to make the UK data available.
- Ioannis mentioned that he had not delivered the Greek data because of similar concerns. However if constituency information can be excluded, he can deliver the data soon.
- Paolo reports that Italy has almost finished collecting data of more than 600 candidates from the 2013 elections where they ran the CCS module I.
- The questions on whether weights are provided occurs: This is currently not the case.
- There is an interest in the meta data from the different countries. Georg will make sure that the collection of meta data reports is available on the website.

2. CCS Module 2: Overview

The following list of countries have communicated that they may run the module II of CCS after the national elections. However, the status of the different countries is not confirmed in all cases.

Table 2 CCS data requests by country

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017
Albania	X					
Australia	X					
Austria	X					
Belgium		X				X
Bulgaria	X					
Brazil		X				
Canada			X			
Czech Republic	No					
Denmark			X			
Estonia			X			
Finland			X			
France					X	
Germany	X					
Greece			X			
Hungary		X				
Iceland	X					
Ireland				X		
Italy	→	CCS module I				
Luxembourg		X				
Netherlands				X		
New Zealand		X				
Norway	X					
Poland			X			
Portugal			X			
Romania				X		
Slovenia			X			
Switzerland			X			
Sweden		X				
United Kingdom			X			
EU		X				

- Ioannis adds, that Albania has been running a candidates survey. In addition he has been in contact with a team of researchers that plans to run CCS in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo.
- Paolo clarifies that Italy has run the module I, because the Modul II had not been available when the Italian elections took place.

3. Comparative CCS book project: state of the art

Georg outlines where we stand with the common book project that will be edited by Lieven de Winter, Georg Lutz and Hermann Schmitt. A total of 8 chapters are currently planned for this book:

1. Introduction: relevance and state of the art of research on candidates in electoral democracies
2. Pathways to candidacy and mandate: Who are the candidates and the elected MPs?
3. Inner-party selection procedures and view on inner-party democracy
4. Personal vote seeking strategies, the link of voters and their constituents
5. Policy Spaces and Representation

6. Representational roles and attitudes towards democracy
7. Campaigning and electoral success
8. Conclusions: The roles of elites in electoral democracies in comparative perspective

Each chapter should be comparative including all available cases and have the following structure:

- Introduction to key concepts and relevant theoretical and political questions and scholarly debates on the topic of the chapter.
- Presentation of the state of the art and comprehensive literature review in the field.
- Overview of the distribution of key dependent variables in a comparative way.
- Empirically analyse between the dependent variable(s) used and various independent variables at the macro and micro level -> special focus should be given to electoral system specific variance.
- A conclusion should summarise key findings.
- Bibliography follows at the end of each chapter, an abstract at the beginning.

Schedule

- Contacting and agreeing on potential contributors: until end of 2014
- Development theoretical framework of the book (introduction): early 2015
- Finding publisher: early 2015
- Joint special conference where authors have to present chapters: June 2015 (Brussels or Louvain)
- Finalization of the revised book chapters: December 2015
- Publication: 2016

As a next step, the members of the CCS network will be contacted if they are interested in contributing to one of the chapters. Based on the responses, the editors will put teams of authors for each chapter together.

5. Outlook/AOB

The following CCS activities are planned in the near future:

1. A final effort to get missing data files from Module I will be made until end of 2014 for a final release of the module I data set.
 2. The promotion of Module II to possibly add new countries will continue by the steering committee.
 3. At the beginning of 2015 a request to submit data from module II will be sent out. Heiko suggest that an information package how the data has to be delivered shall be produced. This will be done by FORS.
 4. Advance the CCS comparative book project.
 5. Funding for CCS is still pending for project management and data integration. To have some small funds would be extremely valuable for the advancement and establishment of the project.
- *Eva mentions that she will likely produce party level variables soon and asks if somebody else will be interested. Such data will likely be very valuable for the book project.*
 - *Heiko mentions the project partyfacts.org which includes a tool that allows linking data sets on political parties from different countries and data sources.*