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SERISS (Synergies for Europe’s Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences) aims to exploit synergies, foster collaboration and develop shared standards between Europe’s social science infrastructures in order to better equip these infrastructures to play a major role in addressing Europe’s grand societal challenges and ensure that European policymaking is built on a solid base of the highest-quality socio-economic evidence.

The four year project (2015-19) is a collaboration between the three leading European Research Infrastructures in the social sciences – the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), the Survey for Health Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA AS) – and organisations representing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), European Values Study (EVS) and the WageIndicator Survey.

Work focuses on three key areas: Addressing key challenges for cross-national data collection, breaking down barriers between social science infrastructures and embracing the future of the social sciences.

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**Executive summary**

Occupation, industry, employment/socio-economic status, educational attainment and field of education are core variables in many socio-economic and health surveys. Within the EU funded H2020 SERISS project (GA No 654221) survey questions and answers have been developed to measure and classify these five variables in multi-country surveys. The answers to the survey questions about occupation, industry, educational attainment and field of education are so-called long-list variables. Databases have been developed to facilitate answering these questions. Each core variable is detailed in a separate SERISS deliverable.

Deliverable D8.14 has summarized all survey questions and answers for the five core variables. It has an accompanying database with translations provided for 99 countries with in total 47 languages for all survey questions and answers.

This deliverable, D8.15, shows that the survey questions and answers have been uploaded in a web survey mode, available from [https://www.surveycodings.org/overview/module-demo](https://www.surveycodings.org/overview/module-demo). Section 2 shows screenshots of the web survey module for all survey questions and answers. Section 3 details how survey managers can use the entire module or parts of it. Section 4 lists the variables and their characteristics, and Section 5 lists the routing used.
1. Introduction

Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) is a four-year project that aims to strengthen and harmonise social science research across Europe (2015-19). Work Package 8 (WP8) of SERISS aims to provide cross-country harmonised, fast, high-quality and cost-effective coding of open ended questions on respondents' occupations, industries and education into international standardized classification systems, and to develop a tool to collect standardized social network information. Occupation, industry, employment status/socio-economic status, educational attainment and field of education are core variables in many socio-economic and health surveys. Moreover, the size and intensity of social networks are key variables in social surveys too. However, their measurement, especially in a cross-cultural, cross-national and longitudinal context, is cumbersome, not sufficiently standardized and often expensive. This work package takes recent scientific and technological developments as an opportunity to improve this situation in order to improve survey measurement quality and provide cost-effective solutions to Research Infrastructures (SERISS Annex 1, European Commission, 2015).

Building on the current technology and the partners' experiences, WP 8 develops a cross-country harmonised, fast, high-quality and cost-effective coding module for the core variables. The module uses a large multi-lingual dictionary with tens of thousands of entries about job titles, industry names, fields of education and training, and employment status categories. Additionally, the module includes country-specific, structured lists of educational qualifications. The module provides up-to-date codes to classify the variables, using international standardized classification systems, focussing on the five core variables occupation, industry, employment and socio-economic status, education and educational field. It facilitates surveys in the ESS, GGP, SHARE and WageIndicator countries and their associated networks to serve infrastructures reaching out to a global audience.

This deliverable concerns SERISS D8.15 ‘Core socio-economic variables Q&A added to online module’. Deliverable D8.14 has summarized all survey questions and answers for the five core variables. It has an accompanying database with translations provided for 99 countries with in total 47 languages for all survey questions and answers (Tijdens 2016a). This deliverable, D8.15, shows that the survey questions and answers have been uploaded in a web survey mode, available from https://www.surveycodings.org/overview/module-demo. The Deliverables D8.1 and D8.2 present the software developed for the database API and the module (Martens, 2017a, 2017b).

For the responses to four of the five core variables the module relies on databases, notably to the survey questions about industry (coded NACE Rev 2), occupation (coded ISCO08), education (coded ISCED2011) and educational field. Two of these databases – industry and occupation - can now be used in the module, and are available as an API (Application Programming Interface) for any web survey. The industry database has been finalised and explained in Deliverable D8.10 (Tijdens, 2016b). The first version of the occupation database is ready for use. This version has almost 2,000 occupational titles and their translations. The final version will have approximately 4,000 occupational titles and is scheduled for Month 48 of SERISS (June 2019). The databases for education and educational field are scheduled for Month 44, prepared by GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, partner in the European Social Survey Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC) (forthcoming February 2019). The answers to the fifth core variable - employment status and socio-economic status - are not in a separate database, because the number of answer categories are limited. They are therefore included as a set of survey questions and answers in the module. These have been detailed in the deliverables about the survey questions for measuring employment status, coded ICSE93 (D8.12, Tijdens 2016c) and socio-economic status, coded ESeG-2014 (D8.13, Tijdens 2016d).
Section 2 of this deliverable shows screenshots of the web survey module for all survey questions and answers. Section 3 details how survey managers can use the entire module or parts of it. Section 4 lists the variables and their characteristics, and Section 5 lists the routing used.
2. The module with the survey questions and answers

Identifying language and country in the module
The first screenshot shows the survey asking in which language the respondent wants to answer. This question is not shown in case of a single country, single language survey.

In case the respondent has selected Danish, all following pages will be shown in Danish, as the one shown below. All further screenshots in this report will be shown in English.

The survey has a question about country of residence.
Identifying age and gender
Two survey questions aim to identify respondent’s age and gender, as shown in the screenshots.
Identifying employment routing
The survey question about paid job identifies whether the survey respondent follows the employed versus the not in employment route through the survey.

If ticked ‘No’, the next survey question asks whether the respondent ever has had a paid job and what he/she currently is doing. The answer to the first question specifies those not in employment versus those who never had a job. Both are associated with different routings through the survey.
Identifying employment status of the employed
For those in paid employment the next survey question asks about employment status.

Follow-up questions for those in employee category

Follow-up question for employees not on a permanent contract
Last follow-up question for employees not on a permanent contract
Identifying industry and firm size
The question about industry uses the industry API with autosuggest, allowing respondents to search for their industry. All responses to this survey question are coded NACE Rev 2.

The question about firm size is asked to both persons in paid employment as well as to persons who previously were in paid employment (question in the past tense).
Identifying occupation
The question about occupation uses the occupation API with autosuggest, allowing respondents to search for their industry.

What is your occupation?
If your occupation is not in the list, please select the one that comes closest.

- Web designer
- Web consultant
- Web developer
- Web programmer
- Web journalist
- Web development officer
- Web master, web manager
- Website administrator
- Website administrator, E-commerce
- Website manager
- Web technician
- Web editor
Identifying education
The survey asks all, including those with in paid work, whether they are currently in full-time education to identify whether the education question should ask for highest or for current education.

The survey asks about the country where respondent received his/her education, to specify which closed answers should be provided for the education survey question.

The survey asks highest level of education for those currently not in full-time education.
The survey asks current stage of education for those currently in full-time education.
Identifying informal workers
Two questions aim to identify to what extend respondents in paid employment are informal workers.

Do you know your last gross and your last net wage?
This applies to your last wage

- Yes, my gross and my net wage
- Only my gross wage
- Only my net wage

Do you yourself or your employer contribute to your social security?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pension fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identifying the household reference person (HRP)

I am the person who contributes most to household income

- Yes
- No / Not applicable

End of the survey
3. How survey holders can use the module in whole or in part
Survey holders can use the entire module or parts of it. This use is for free until the end of the SERISS project, but they remain available after the project. The module is available at the website http://surveycodings.org/. The website has information about the variables and countries in the module, and separate web pages for each of the five core variables. These pages also hold excel databases for the related survey questions and answers and their translations. Survey holders can copy and paste the survey questions and answers for their own survey, be it a web survey or any other survey mode. Survey managers who want to use the API in their web survey should contact Centerdata using the contact form available on the surveycodings website. For managers of web surveys, two APIs are currently at their disposal, namely the industry and the occupation databases. For managers of other survey modes, both databases are downloadable for implementation in their own survey.

4. SERISS Module: variables and their characteristics

Page 1
context_id
Language you want to answer the survey in
Answer type: None
Answer type: String

Page 2
country_id
Country you live in
Answer type: None
Answer type: String

Page 3
yybirth
When were you born?
Answer type: Dropdown
Categories:
1920
1920
1921
1921
1922
1922
Page 4

sex

What is your gender?

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:

1. Woman
2. Man

Page 5

nrofjob1

Do you have a paid job?

As an employee, self-employed or otherwise

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:

1. Yes
2. No
Have you ever had a paid job?
Answer type: Radiobuttons
Categories:
1. Yes
2. No

Are you mainly...
If you have more than one job, please answer with reference to your main job.
Answer type: Radiobuttons
Categories:
140. Employee
141. Civil servant
202. Self-employed without employees, freelancer
201. Self-employed with employees
103. Paid family worker
825. Apprentice, trainee
170. Member of a producers cooperative
950. Other

Do you have a permanent contract?
Answer type: Radiobuttons
Categories:
1. Yes
2. No

Page 9

contract

What kind of employment contract do you have?
If more options are applicable, tick the option that comes closest

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. A fixed term contract of less than 12 months
2. A fixed term contract of 12 months or more
3. A temporary employment agency contract
4. Casual contract
5. No exact duration
6. No contract
99. Other type of contract

Page 10

contract1

What kind of employment contract do you have?

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. Replacement contract (fixed-term contract to replace another worker)
2. A fixed term contract of 12 months or more
3. A fixed term contract of less than 12 months
4. No exact duration
99. Other type of contract

Page 11

contract2

Are you mainly...

Answer type: Radiobuttons
Categories:
1. On call
2. Contract / daily wage worker
3. Housekeeping
4. Seasonal worker
5. Occasional work
99. Other

Page 12

contract3

Are you mainly...
Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. Contractor / subcontractor (labour only)
2. Contractor / subcontractor with equipment or vehicle
3. A temporary employment agency contract
4. Self-employed without employees, freelancer
99. Other

Page 13

contst825

Are you currently...
Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. Apprentice, trainee (paid)
2. Apprentice, trainee (unpaid)

Page 14

GROUP_curr

Are you currently...
Question type: Table
Answer type: Radiobuttons

Subquestions:
wrk_student In full-time education / student
wrk_retired Retired
notwrk_sick Unable to work due to long-term illness or disability

Categories:
1. Yes
2. No

Page 15
wrk_student2
Are you currently...
In full-time education / student
Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. Yes
2. No

Page 16
sector2_API
What is the main activity of the organization where you work?
Answer type: String
sector2_API_code
Answer type: String

Page 17
firmsize
How many people are employed at your place of work?
Applicable to your establishment
Answer type: Radiobuttons
Categories:
1. 1 - I work alone
2. 2 - 4
3. 5 - 9
4. 10 - 20
5. 20 - 50
6. 50 - 100
7. 100 - 200
8. 200 - 500
9. 500 - 1000
10. 1000 - 2000
11. 2000 - 5000
12. 5000 or more

**Page 18**

occupai3_API

What is your occupation?

If your occupation is not in the list, please select the one that comes closest

Answer type: String

occupai3_API_code

Answer type: String

**Page 19**

u_sector2_API

What is the main activity of the organization where you worked?

Answer type: String

u_sector2_API_code

Answer type: String

**Page 20**

u_firmsize

How many people were employed at your former place of work?

Applicable to your establishment
Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:

1. 1 - I worked alone
2. 2 - 4
3. 5 - 9
4. 10 - 20
5. 20 - 50
6. 50 - 100
7. 100 - 200
8. 200 - 500
9. 500 - 1000
10. 1000 - 2000
11. 2000 - 5000
12. 5000 or more

Page 21

u_occupai3_API

What was your occupation?
If your occupation is not in the list, please select the one that comes closest

Answer type: String

u_occupai3_API_code

Answer type: String

Page 22

firmpri1

Did you work...

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:

140. Employee
141. Civil servant
202. Self-employed without employees, freelancer
201. Employer / Self-employed with employees
950. Other

Page 23

You were educated in

Answer type: String

Page 24

What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Answer type: String

Page 25

At what stage of education are you at the moment?

Answer type: String

Page 26

What is your main field of education?

Answer type: String

Page 27

How many clients did you have in the past 12 months?

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. 1
2. 2 or more
Page 28
wageboth

Do you know your last gross and your last net wage?

This applies to your last wage

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. Yes, my gross and my net wage
2. Only my gross wage
3. Only my net wage

Page 29
wagetax1

Do you yourself or your employer contribute to your social security?

Question type: Table

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Subquestions:
wagetaxpension Pension fund
wagetaxunempl Unemployment fund
wagetaxdisabil Disability fund
wagetaxmedical Medical insurance

Categories:
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

Page 30
hhrespin

I am the person who contributes most to household income

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:
1. Yes
2. No / Not applicable
6.5. Routing

language context_id
country country_id
yybirth
if (yybirth < 2007) {
    sex
    nrofjob1
    if (nrofjob1 = 2) {
        contstno
    } elseif (nrofjob1 = 1) {
        contst71
        if (contst71 in (140, 141, 950)) {
            contrac5
            if (contrac5 = 2) {
                contract
                if (contract = 1 || contract = 99) {
                    contract1
                }
            }
            if (contract1 > 2 || contract = 99) {
                contract2
            }
        }
    }
}
if (contst71 = 825) {
    contst825
}

if (nrofjob1 = 2) {
    GROUP_curr
} else {
    wrk_student2
}

if (nrofjob1 = 1) {
    sector2_API sector2_API_code
    firmsize
    occupai3_API occupai3_API_code
} elseif (contstno = 1) {
    u_sector2_API u_sector2_API_code
    u_firmsize
    if (wrk_retired = 1) {
        u_occupai3_API u_occupai3_API_code
        firmpri1
    }
}

countrye_API

educat_API

if (wrk_student2 = 1) {
    educast_API
}

educaf_API

if (contst71 = 202 && contract3 <> 4) {

wagesize

}
if (contst71 in (140, 141, 950)) {
  wageboth
  wagetax1
}

hhrespin

}
References
European Commission, Directorate-General For Research & Innovation, Research infrastructure (2015) ANNEX 1 (part A) Research and Innovation action NUMBER — 654221 — SERISS, Brussels

Martens, M. (2017a) API for databases + explanatory note. Deliverable 8.01 of the SERISS project funded under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme GA No: 654221. Available at: www.seriss.eu/resources/deliverables

Martens, M. (2017b) Module for five core and few auxiliary Q&A in 99 countries + explanatory note. Deliverable 8.02 of the SERISS project funded under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme GA No: 654221. Available at: www.seriss.eu/resources/deliverables


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