Variable Harmonization Hub

The Variable Harmonization Hub is an online repository for the extensive and detailed variable harmonization work that survey researchers must carry out in the course of routine data preparation. The website allows researchers to easily find and deposit detailed digital documentation on variable harmonization.

Why do social researchers need a Variable Harmonization Hub?

Social researchers routinely record variables in surveys, including recoding national classifications with international classification standards, such as education or occupation. The challenge that researchers who want to understand or replicate prior variable recodings face is that the documentation may exist in several different places or may not contain many details on why certain decisions were taken.

How does the Variable Harmonization Hub solve the problem?

Building a digital location where researchers can deposit their detailed documentation for storage and online public retrieval increases both the transparency of the work and facilitates the precise replication of measures in other contexts. The Hub allows for more extensive documentation to be deposited alongside a study's codebook, including uploading the original recoding instructions in a proprietary statistical package (i.e. uploading the original .do or .sav file), and other supporting documentation including spreadsheet documents such as Excel files.

How can researchers use the Variable Harmonization Hub?

The Hub is for public use and anyone can search its holdings without registration. Users can search by the name of the study, by concept, or by variable name.

Researchers can deposit their harmonization documentation by registering with the website and submitting their documentation, which goes through a peer-review process before acceptance.

Where to find out more about the Variable Harmonization Hub

Visit https://harmonization.gesis.org/ and search 'EVS' to see documentation for the European Values Survey European Values Study 2017 (EVS 2017).

www.SERISS.eu

Project Summary

Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) aims to equip Europe's social science data infrastructures to play a major role in addressing the key societal challenges facing Europe today and ensure that national and European policymaking is built on a solid base of the highest quality socio-economic evidence. SERISS involves the three leading European Research Infrastructures in the social sciences – the European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC) and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA ERIC) – together with organizations representing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), European Values Study (EVS) and WageIndicator.

Undertaking collaborative research and creating tools to assist future data collection, SERISS has exploited potential synergies among these infrastructures and fostered inter-operability, harmonization and innovation in three key ways:

- Addressing key challenges for cross-national data collection including how best to represent the views and behavior of the population and how to achieve equivalence of meaning across countries via high-quality translation

- Breaking down barriers between infrastructures by developing common technological platforms and creating shared online tools and resources

- Embracing the future of the social sciences by exploring new forms of data and new modes of data collection

SERISS Tools

SERISS has developed a suite of online tools to support different stages of the data lifecycle from design to collection to analysis. The tools are designed to support higher quality and cost effective data collection and ensure that data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). They are available to be used by national and international research infrastructures.

Find out more about SERISS Tools

- Questionnaire Design and Documentation Tool (QDDT)
  https://github.com/DASISH/qddt-client/wiki or contact surveytools@nsd.no

- Translation Management Tool (TMT)
  https://seriss.centerdata.nl/ or contact centerdata@uvt.nl

- Question Variable Database (QVDB)
  https://colectica.nsd.no/ or contact surveytools@nsd.no

- Fieldwork Management System (FMS)
  https://seriss.centerdata.nl/page2.php or contact centerdata@uvt.nl

- SMaP/myEVS
  https://www.gesis.org/en/research/applied-computer-science/labs/#c78056 or contact myevs.support@gesis.org.

- Surveycodings.org
  www.surveycodings.org

- Variable Harmonization HUB (VHH)
  https://harmonization.gesis.org/#!Home

www.SERISS.eu