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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 of Health Ageing 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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1. Introduction

The SERISS surveycodings tools offer resource-light alternatives to manual coding for variables measuring occupation, industry, levels of education, and fields of education. The tools are available in multiple languages, and produce harmonised data to account for cross-national differences in education systems and support the coding of responses to open questions on industry and occupation. In addition, a name generator tool enables the measurement and tracking of social networks in household surveys. The surveycodings tools can be embedded in CAPI and CAWI surveys, accessed live via a search function on the surveycodings website, or downloaded and stored for reference in the surveycodings app (currently available for Android devices only).

This report gives an overview of the public-facing pages of the surveycodings website. The surveycodings website (www.surveycodings.org) provides information about the surveycodings tools and how to use them. It also provides access to download the questionnaire and databases for use in CAWI and CAPI surveys, and live access (for levels of education, fields of education, occupation and industry) to the databases that underlie the tools. The live search function also offers a portal to the user-facing interface of the back-end of the website, which provides direct access to lists of codes/translations as appropriate (for further information relating to the back-end of the website, see SERISS deliverable D3.13; Martens, 2019).

The layout of the website is based on the free Drupal theme designed by ADCI Solutions and has been implemented by CentERdata to the surveycodings requirements.

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1 Much of the information in this section is taken directly from SERISS deliverable D8.16 (Sibley, Schneider, Schwartz & Tijdens, 2019).
2. The surveycodings front-end

This section provides screenshots to illustrate the key features of the website: the front page, a table showing which tools are available in each language, the front page for one of the surveycodings domains (Levels of Education), an example of the database live search (for Occupation), and information about how to use the tools in a survey (in web mode).

Figure 1: surveycodings website front page
Figure 2: **Tool availability for different languages**

![Figure 2](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Language</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Fields of Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan (Afghan Persian / Dari)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan (Pashto)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania (Albanian)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria (Arabic)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria (French)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3: **Levels of Education front page**

![Figure 3](image)

**Levels of education**

The individual's educational attainment is a core social background variable in standardised surveys. However, the centrality of this variable contrasts starkly with its often inadequate measurement, especially in the case of migrants and cross-national surveys. Usually, educational attainment is measured by means of a closed question on the highest educational qualification achieved, providing a limited number of fixed response categories containing the most common qualifications in the country of survey, which are harmonised post-hoc. An inconsistent level of detail of response categories across surveys and countries, increasing differentiation of educational systems as well as education and work-related migration however progressively complicate the measurement and harmonisation of educational attainment in surveys. Current practice also does not yet take advantage of the technological opportunities offered by computer-assisted interviews, which are becoming increasingly common.

The aim of the education measurement and coding tool is to alleviate these problems, based on 1) an international database of educational qualifications and levels, 2) optimised questionnaire instruments, and 3) an interface to directly access the database for use in computer-assisted surveys. The tool allows respondents to report their educational attainment relative to the educational system of the country where they completed their education, rather than forcing them to guess the closest equivalent in the country where the survey is conducted. It also provides syntax for harmonisation into the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) after data collection.

As of August 2010, the education database covers 100 countries, among which nearly all European educational systems, some neighboring countries, and the countries of origin of the largest migrant and current refugee groups in Germany, especially Arabic and African countries. It contains around 4000 unique educational qualifications. You can download an Excel file of the database [here](link); you can also run a [live search in the database](link).
Figure 4: **Occupation > Database live search**

Figure 5: **Survey Implementation > web surveys**
3. The surveycodings back-end

The back-end of the website is accessed via a link ‘View coding and related variables in LIVE database’ on the database live search website. This brings up the ‘Codings’ section of the site, with access to the databases for levels of education, fields of education, industry and occupation. For technical information about the back-end, see SERISS deliverable 3.13 (Martens, 2019).

Figure 6: Link to the back-end via the Occupation database live search
### Codings: Fields of Education > List view

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name</th>
<th>description</th>
<th>searchable</th>
<th>active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0000</td>
<td>Generic programmes and qualifications</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>Basic programmes and qualifications</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0021</td>
<td>Literacy and numeracy</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0031</td>
<td>Personal skills and development</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0100</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0111</td>
<td>Education science</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0112</td>
<td>Training for pre-school teachers</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0113</td>
<td>Teacher training without subject specialisation</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0114</td>
<td>Teacher training with subject specialisation</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0200</td>
<td>Arts and humanities</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0210</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 7:** Codings: Fields of Education > List view

### Codings: Industry > Tree view

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing
- Construction, technical consultancy
- Education, research
- Entertainment, culture, sports
- Extraction, mining, quarrying
- Financial services, banking, insurance
- Healthcare, caring services, social work, personal services
- Hospitality, catering, tourism

**Figure 8:** Codings: Industry > Tree view
4. User feedback mechanism

The back-end user interface also invites users to give feedback on their experience of using the site. This aims to engage users in the on-going development and review of the surveycodings tools, including the functionality of the website, and optimisation of the codes and translations.

Figure 9: Codings: User feedback form

References


Sibley, E. (2019) Training event on the surveycodings tools Deliverable 8.19 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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