

## **ISSP Background Variables Guidelines**

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## INTRODUCTION

### *The ISSP Background Variables Guidelines (BVG)*

The document at hand is designed to serve as a comprehensive guide for ISSP member countries in surveying and coding the ISSP “background variables” (BV). It substitutes the ISSP BV document adopted by the ISSP General Assembly in 2001 at its Umeå meeting. The first module for which the following update has to be applied by ISSP members is the ISSP module 2018 Religion IV.

For each variable the guide provides clearly defined measurement goals, a coding frame and an actual sample question text. We are aware that, for various reasons, in some countries it will not be possible to use the question texts proposed here. For these countries, the document should serve as a reference document to make sure that ISSP background variables are correctly coded from the national variables to the ISSP standards. The sample question text offered may serve to underline the intended meaning of the variable. For those countries, however, that are free to apply their own question designs for the ISSP demography, the questions and answer categories presented here should be used as a master in order to achieve the highest possible level of comparability. (Beyond this, these countries have the possibility to use the “Background Variables Questionnaire” (BVQ, 2017-06-23) as a master questionnaire for the BVs.)

Due to some filtering and routing for the variables related to work status and family characteristics (PARTLIV and MARITAL), we strongly recommend to follow the given question order – if ever possible<sup>1</sup>. The document is broadly organised in thematic blocks grouping the ISSP background variables under topical aspects:

- The first block is formed by the rather basic demographic variables on **sex and age** of the respondent. p. 7-9
- The second block of variables deals with the respondent’s **education**. p. 10-13
- The third and largest block contains variables on the respondent’s and his or her partner’s **work situation**. The respective filter variable for the partner (PARTLIV) is located directly in front of the partner’s work variables. p. 14-34
- The fourth block covers variables on **religion**. p. 35-37
- The fifth block of variables deals with **social class, party affiliation** and respondent’s **political behaviour**. p. 38-42
- The sixth block addresses variables on **ethnic origins**, the **household composition**, the **earning capacity** and the **marital status** of the respondent as well as some **geographical references**. p. 43-54

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<sup>1</sup> Irrespective of the variable order in your national data sets, please arrange the variable order in the data set that you send to the archive as shown in this BVG document.

- The last block of variables is of technical nature and contains an **ID number**, an **indicator for substitution**, the **date of the interview**, the **weighting factor** and the **mode of the interview**. p. 55-59

Every ISSP BV is listed with its variable name and label as used in the integrated ISSP data file. Furthermore, for every variable the following elements are defined:

1. measurement goal,
2. filter conditions, if there are any,
3. coding frame with the obligatory categories and value labels,
4. example of question wording and answer categories,
5. coding and classification instructions to guide the variable construction.

Under the heading “6. Other comments”, there may be further information on the definition of certain terms or on the fixed question order for certain variables.

The example questions (4.) are formulated with a self-completion questionnaire in mind. For all substantial responses the example questions (4.) and the coding frames (3.) correspond completely. Some variables have a “refused” category and/or a “don’t know” category in their coding frame, without these categories being included in the example question. These categories are available because this kind of information is collected in some national surveys not using the self-completion mode. If the “refused” and “don’t know” categories are used for variables that currently do not have that option in the coding frame, such a category may be added by the ISSP-archive.

Below, an overview of substantial changes to previous coding standards is presented. By “substantial changes” we mean changes going beyond clarification of measurement goals or addition of examples of question wording.

**Overview:**

**Major changes during the developing process of the ISSP BV**

ISSP BV	Replaces Old Variable	Modified	Dropped	Added	Comment	Changed in <year> / in force since ISSP module
BIRTH				(X)	Additional variable to alternatively measure age of respondent	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
EDUCYRS		X			Respondents, who are currently at school or university should give the number of years.	Change in 2010 / since ISSP 2011
DEGREE		X			Redefinition and improvement of the comparability.	Change in 2010 / since ISSP 2011
nat_ETHN1 nat_ETHN2	x				Former ISSP BV nat_ETHN now compulsory self-assessed variable	Changed in 2009 and 2012 / since ISSP 2013
WRKST			X		Former ISSP BV WRKST split into WORK, MAINSTAT, EMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
WORK	X				Former ISSP BV WRKST split into WORK, MAINSTAT, EMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
MAINSTAT	X				Former ISSP BV WRKST split into WORK, MAINSTAT, EMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
EMPREL	X	X			Updated WRKST and WRKTYPE NEMPLOY included	Changed in 2009 / 2017 since ISSP 2010 / 2018
NEMPLOY			X			Since 2018
WRKTYPE			X		Former ISSP BV WRKTYPE split into TYPORG1, TYPORG2, and EMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
TYPORG1				(X)	Former ISSP BV WRKTYPE split into TYPORG1, TYPORG2, and EMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
TYPORG2	X				Former ISSP BV WRKTYPE split into TYPORG1, TYPORG2, and EMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
ISCO08	X				Former ISCO88	Changed in 2013 / since ISSP 2014
NSUP				X	Additional variable to measure respondent's number of supervised employees	Added in 2009 / since ISSP 2010

<i>ISSP BV</i>	<i>Replaces Old Variable</i>	<i>Modified</i>	<i>Dropped</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Changed in &lt;year&gt; / in force since ISSP module</i>
PARTLIV	X				Renamed former ISSP BV COHAB; category on existing partnership differentiated	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPWRKST			X		Former ISSP BV SPWRKST split into SPWORK, SPMAINST, SPEMPREL, SPWRKHRS	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPWORK	X				Former ISSP BV SPWRKST split into SPWORK, SPMAINST, SPEMPREL, SPWRKHRS	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPMAINST	X				Former ISSP BV SPWRKST split into SPWORK, SPMAINST, SPEMPREL, SPWRKHRS	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPISCO08	X				Former SPISCO08	Changed in 2013 / since ISSP 2014
SPEMPREL	X				Updated SPWRKST and SPWRKTYP	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPWRKTYP			X		Replaced partly by SPEMPREL	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPWRKHRS	X				Former ISSP BV SPWRKST split into SPWORK, SPMAINST, SPEMPREL, SPWRKHRS	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SPWRKSUP				X	Additional variable to measure spouse's supervisory function	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
RELIG			X		Dropped in favour of nat_RELIG	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
nat_RELIG	X				Former ISSP BV RELIG organised into country-specific variables	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
RELIGGRP	X				Replaces old RELIGGRP with changed codes and slightly relabelled categories	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
NAT_PRTY		X			Use of the same indicator in all ISSP member countries to improve the comparability: vote recall	Change in 2010 / since ISSP 2011
HHCYCLE			X		Former ISSP BV HHCYCLE split into HHADULT,	Changed in 2009 / 2017 since ISSP 2010 /2018

<i>ISSP BV</i>	<i>Replaces Old Variable</i>	<i>Modified</i>	<i>Dropped</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Changed in &lt;year&gt; / in force since ISSP module</i>
					HHCHILDR, HHTODD and HOMPOP	
HOMPOP		X				Changed in 2017 / since ISSP 2018
HHADULT				X		Changed in 2017 / since ISSP 2018
HHCHILDR	X				Former ISSP BV HHCYCLE split into HHCHILDR, HHTODD and HOMPOP	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
HHTODD	X				Former ISSP BV HHCYCLE split into HHCHILDR, HHTODD and HOMPOP	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
MARITAL		X			Category on civil partnership added	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
nat_SIZE			X		Dropped	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
F_BORN				X		Since ISSP 2013
M_BORN				X		Since ISSP 2013
CASEID		X			Technical variable that clarifies ISSP ID variable	Changed in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
SUBSCASE		X			Technical variable that identifies substituted cases	Added in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
DATEDY				X	Technical variable to record day of interview	Added in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
DATEMO				X	Technical variable to record month of interview	Added in 2009 / since ISSP 2010
DATEYR				X	Technical variable to record year of interview	Added in 2009 / since ISSP 2010

## **SEX “Sex of respondent”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

Sex of the respondent

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

SEX “Sex of respondent”

1	Male
2	Female
9	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Are you...

1	Male
2	Female

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

Information can be collected by interviewer observation in face-to-face interviews, by direct question with other interview modes or it can be derived from the sampling list (e.g. for samples drawn with sufficient information from population registers).



## **BIRTH “Year of birth”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent’s year of birth, also in order to compute the respondent’s age.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

BIRTH “Year of birth”

MIN BIRTH to HIGH BIRTH  
9999 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

When were you born?

*Please, write in the year of your birth (use four digits for the year).*

□□□□

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

This question can be asked as an alternative to asking about AGE. If BIRTH is not asked directly, it must be computed by DATEYR ‘year of interview’ minus AGE ‘age of respondent’. If your country is free to choose between asking BIRTH or AGE directly, the ISSP prefers BIRTH being asked.

## **AGE “Age of respondent”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the exact age in years at the time of the interview.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

AGE “Age of Respondent”

MIN AGE to HIGH AGE

999 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

What was your age at your last birthday, in full years?

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

This question can be asked as an alternative to asking about BIRTH. If AGE is not asked directly, it must be computed by DATEYR ‘year of interview’ minus BIRTH ‘year of birth’. If your country is free to choose between asking BIRTH or AGE directly, the ISSP prefers BIRTH being asked.

## **EDUCYRS “Years of full-time schooling”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent’s years of full-time schooling, including university education. Whether grades or degrees were completed or not does not matter here.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

EDUCYRS “Years of full-time schooling”

0 No formal schooling

1 One year

...

98 Don’t know

99 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

How many years (full-time equivalent) have you been in formal education?

*Include all primary and secondary schooling, university and other post-secondary education, and full-time vocational training, but do not include repeated years. If you are currently in education, count the number of years you have completed so far.*

[TN: Countries where it is not common to repeat years should omit the last clause.]

*Please enter number of years or tick a box as applicable.*

... years

00 I have no formal schooling

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Vocational training should be included in EDUCYRS only if full-time formal schooling is involved.

Respondents who are currently at school or university or at cram schools for full-time formal schooling should also give the number of years.

This variable should be asked directly to the respondent (not being derived from nat\_DEGREE) to offer a second indicator of educational attainment.

### **6. Other comments**

-

***nat\_DEGR “Country-specific: highest completed degree of education”***

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the country-specific highest completed education level/degree of the respondent.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_DEGR “Country-specific: highest completed degree of education”

99      No answer

**4. Example question text(s)**

What is the highest level of education that you have attained?

*Please tick one box only.*

[List of country-specific categories]

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

Vocational training should be included if full-time formal schooling is involved. For pupils or students code the degree that has already been completed.

Please, split ‘university codes’ in your national degree variables (nat\_DEGR) into at least two categories for being able to meet the requirements of the harmonized DEGREE variable.

- DEGREE code 5 holds ‘Lower level tertiary (first stage, Bachelor)’.
- DEGREE code 6 includes ‘Upper level tertiary (Master, Dr.)’.

**6. Other comments**

Original country-specific categories should be translated into English.

## ***DEGREE “ Comparative: highest completed degree of education”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the highest completed education level/degree of the respondent in order to facilitate international comparison.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

DEGREE “Comparatve: highest completed degree of education”

- 0 No formal education
- 1 Primary school
- 2 Lower secondary
- 3 Upper secondary
- 4 Post secondary, non-tertiary
- 5 Lower level tertiary
- 6 Upper level tertiary
- 9 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Derived variable

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

This harmonised ISSP variable must be computed from the country-specific degrees (nat\_DEGREE). Do not use the ISSP categories given here in your field questionnaires! Correspondence lists between country-specific categories and categories of the ISSP DEGREE variable must be reported in detail in the BV documentation template. DEGREE is a slightly re-arranged version of ISCED-97. A document with detailed coding instructions for ISCED-97 is available in the ISSP Data Deposit Portal.

### **6. Other comments**

For correspondence between DEGREE and ISCED-97, see table on the next page!

<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>Label</b>	<b>ISCED-97</b>	<b>Comments</b>	
0	No completed formal education	0		<p>In countries without separate primary school, where the first school form is a compulsory school ending after the 8-10 grade, categories 0 - 2 of the standardized DEGREE variable need to be constructed by means of the EDUCYRS "Years of full-time schooling" variable.</p> <p>Since the ISSP variable asks for the highest COMPLETED degree of education, please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those, who report to have attended less than 6 years fall into category 0 "No formal schooling".</li> <li>• Those who report to have finished at least 6 years of schooling should be coded 1 "Primary School".</li> <li>• Who finishes compulsory school successfully has to be coded 2 "Lower Secondary".</li> </ul>
1	Primary school	1	According to ISCED-97, primary school is not a compulsory school: "Primary schools are supposed to give students a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics. They in principle cover six years of full time schooling."	
2	Lower secondary	2, 3C short	Secondary education completed that does not allow entry to university: End of obligatory school but also short programmes (less than 2 years).	
3	Upper secondary	3A, 4A	Programmes that allow entry to university.	
4	Post secondary, non-tertiary	3B, 3C, 4B, 4C	Other upper secondary programmes that are designed either towards the labour market or technical formation.	
5	Lower level tertiary (first stage)	5A short, 5B	Also technical schools at a tertiary level.	
6	Upper level tertiary (Master, Dr.)	5A long, 6		

## **WORK "Currently, formerly, or never in paid work"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent's current or former involvement in the labour market or economic activity. The extent and type of this involvement will be covered elsewhere.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

WORK "Currently, formerly, or never in paid work"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Currently in paid work                            |
| 2 | Currently not in paid work, paid work in the past |
| 3 | Never had paid work                               |
| 9 | No answer   |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Are you currently working for pay, did you work for pay in the past, or have you never been in paid work?

*By work we mean doing income-producing work, as an employee, self-employed or working for your own family's business, for at least one hour per week. If you temporarily are not working for pay because of temporary illness/parental leave/vacation/strike, etc., please refer to your normal work situation.*

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | I am currently in paid work                                     |
| 2 | I am currently not in paid work but I had paid work in the past |
| 3 | I have never had paid work                                      |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Include all paid work for at least one hour per week.

### **6. Other comments**

The ISSP prefers the following sequence for the related questions in the questionnaires:  
WORK → WRKHRS → EMPREL → WRKSUP → NSUP → TYPORG1 → TYPORG2 → ISCO08 → MAINSTAT.

## **WRKHRS "Hours worked weekly"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the total number of hours per week the respondent usually spends working for pay (summing up all jobs if the respondent has more than one), including any regular overtime (irrespective of whether this is paid or unpaid overtime).

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WORK = 1 or 9, respondent currently in paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

WRKHRS "Hours worked weekly"

1	One hour
...	
96	96 hours or more
98	Don't know
99	No answer
00	NAP (Code 2 or 3 in WORK)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

How many hours, on average, do you usually work for pay in a normal week, including overtime?

*If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please count the total number of working hours that you do.*

*If you temporarily are not working because of temporary illness/parental leave/vacation/strike etc., please refer to your normal work situation.*

*Please write in.*

On average, I work.....hours a week, overtime included.

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Round to full hours.

### **6. Other comments**

See comment for WORK about question order.



## **EMPREL "Employment relationship"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to identify the employment or self-employment type of the respondent.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WORK=1 or 2 or 9, respondent in current or past paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

EMPREL "Employment relationship"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Employee                                |
| 2 | Self-employed without employees         |
| 3 | Self-employed with 1 to 9 employees     |
| 4 | Self-employed with 10 employees or more |
| 5 | Working for own family's business       |
| 9 | No answer                               |
| 0 | NAP (Code 3 in WORK)                    |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Are/were you an employee, self-employed, or working for your own family's business?  
[TN: Country-specific terms such as 'wage employee' or 'wage worker' may be used here to clarify the meaning of "employee". Self-employed includes terms such as 'freelancers', 'independent professionals', and other respondents working on their own account.]

*If you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your main job.  
If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.*

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | An employee                             |
| 2 | Self-employed without employees         |
| 3 | Self-employed with 1 to 9 employees     |
| 4 | Self-employed with 10 employees or more |
| 5 | Working for your own family's business  |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

"Main" job refers to the self-assessed main job of the respondent.

"Working for own family's business" refers to persons who are working in family business without being the owner – owners of a family business are self-employed –, and without having a formal employment contract – that would make them regular employees. Typical examples of people working in a family business are family members helping on a farm, in a small shop, or in a crafts enterprise.

### **6. Other comments**

See comment for WORK about question order.

## **WRKSUP "Supervise other employees"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure whether the respondent supervises/supervised others at work. Supervision is to be understood as a leadership function of monitoring and being responsible for the work of others.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WORK=1 or 2 or 9, respondent in current or past paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

WRKSUP "Supervise other employees"

1	Yes
2	No
9	No answer
0	NAP (Code 3 in WORK)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Do/did you supervise other employees?

[TN: Supervision is to be understood as a leadership function of monitoring and being responsible for the work of others.]

*If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your main job.*

*If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.*

*Please tick one box only.*

1	Yes
2	No

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

See EMPREL for "main" job.

See NSUP for "number of employees supervised".

See comment for WORK about question order.

**NSUP "Number of other employees supervised"**

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the number of other employees the respondent has/had the responsibility to supervise. Supervision is to be understood as a leadership function of monitoring and being responsible for the work of others.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WRKSUP =1 or 9, the respondent is/was responsible for supervising other employees or did not answer.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

NSUP "Number of other employees supervised"

1	1 employee
...	
9995	9995 employees or more
9999	No answer
0000	NAP (Code 2, 0 in WRKSUP)

**4. Example question text(s)**

How many other employees do/did you supervise?

[TN: Supervision is to be understood as a leadership function of monitoring and being responsible for the work of others.]

*Please write in.*

.....employees.

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

Please code the number of employees as exactly as possible.

**6. Other comments**

See WRKSUP for "supervision yes/no".

See comment for WORK about question order.

## **TYPORG1 "Type of organisation, for-profit/non-profit"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of variables TYPORG1 and TYPORG2 is to measure (1) whether the goal of the organisation the respondent is working for is for-profit or non-profit, and (2) what the ownership status of this organisation is. By combining these two dimensions, four analytically relevant categories depicting a horizontal division in the labour market can be distinguished.

		<b>TYPORG1</b>	
		<b>For-profit</b>	<b>Non-profit</b>
<b>TYPORG2</b>	Public	1	2
	Private	3	4

TYPORG1 deals with the main goal of the organisation the respondent is working for. "For-profit" refers to material profit, understood as a gain for the benefit of the owners of the business. Organisations which generate revenue, but use this to subsidise a designated organisational purpose other than the owners' profit, are counted as non-profit organisations. Thus, economic activities of charitable, scientific, political, or environmental organisations, etc. should not be understood as for-profit economic activities. State-owned companies or collectively owned organisations such as cooperatives will in contrast often be for-profit organisations – if the main goal is material profit.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WORK=1 or 2 or 9, respondent in current or past paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

TYPORG1 "Type of organisation, for-profit/non-profit"

1	For-profit organisation
2	Non-profit organisation
8	Don't know
9	No answer
0	NAP (Code 3 in WORK)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Do/did you work for a for-profit organisation or for a non-profit organisation?

[TN: If necessary, clarify for-profit or non-profit organisation by giving examples typical for your country.]

*If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your main job.*

*If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.*

*Please tick one box only.*

- 1 I work/ed for a for-profit organisation
- 2 I work/ed for a non-profit organisation

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

### **6. Other comments**

See comment for WORK about question order.

We recommend asking the for-profit/non-profit question before the public/private question. The advantage is that respondents working for a publicly owned company could otherwise believe that the question on “profit” somehow indicates “personal profit”, i.e. bribes etc. Both the for-profit/non-profit and the public/private question wordings should encourage respondents to provide their self-assessment of belonging to one category in each of the questions.

See EMPREL for “main” job.

## **TYPORG2 "Type of organisation, public/private"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of variables TYPORG1 and TYPORG2 is to measure (1) whether the goal of the organisation the respondent is working for is for profit or non-profit, and (2) what the ownership status of this organisation is. By combining these two dimensions, four analytically relevant categories depicting a horizontal division in the labour market can be distinguished.

		<b>TYPORG1</b>	
		For-profit	Non-profit
<b>TYPORG2</b>	<b>Public</b>	1	2
	<b>Private</b>	3	4

TYPORG2 deals with the main ownership status of the organisation or firm the respondent is working for. Identifying the main ownership status of an organisation or firm will be easiest for a respondent by being asked about his/her actual employer.

A "public employer" includes any of state, government, public administration, local government, army, police, juridical/legal system, civil service, municipality or federation of municipalities, and local communities, as well as other types of organisations where the main owner is the state: publicly owned for-profit organisations (e.g., a state owned oil-company) or publicly owned non-profit organisations (e.g. a publicly owned hospital). Note that the public category should be read to mean only state-ownership in a strict sense. Charities, foundations, cooperatives, etc. are therefore usually private owners.

For mixed ownership, a 50% rule can suffice to determine public vs. private ownership, e.g., a company with 60% private ownership should be assigned to "private employer".

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WORK=1 or 2 or 9, respondent in current or past paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

TYPORG2 "Type of organisation, public/private"

- 1 Public employer
- 2 Private employer
- 8 Don't know
- 9 No answer
- 0 NAP (Code 3 in WORK)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Do/did you work for a public or a private employer?

[TN: If necessary, clarify public or private employer by giving examples typical for your country.]

*If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your main job.*

*If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.*

*Please tick one box only.*

- 1 Public employer
- 2 Private employer

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

## **6. Other comments**

See comment for WORK about question order.

Both the for-profit/non-profit and the public/private question wordings should encourage respondents to provide their self-assessment of belonging to one category in each of the questions.

See EMPREL for “main” job.

**ISCO08 “Occupation ISCO 2008”**

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent’s current or former main occupation, using the 4-digit 2008 ISCO/ILO occupation codes.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if WORK=1 or 2 or 9, respondent in current or past paid work or did not answer.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

ISCO08 “Occupation ISCO 2008”

0110-9629	(ISCO08 unit codes)
9998	Don't know, inadequately described
9999	No answer
0000	NAP (Code 3 in WORK)

**4. Example question text(s)**

Three example questions are provided: ISCO08\_1, ISCO08\_2, and ISCO08\_3. We strongly suggest that occupation is asked using at least two questions, and that priority should be given to the information asked for in ISCO08\_1 and ISCO08\_2.

<b>ISCO08_1</b>
What is/was your occupation – i.e., what is/was the name or title of your main job? <i>If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your <u>main</u> job.</i> <i>If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.</i>  <i>Please write in and describe as clearly as possible.</i> My occupation is/was: ..... .....

<b>ISCO08_2</b>
In your main job, what kind of activities do/did you do most of the time? <i>If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your <u>main</u> job.</i> <i>If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.</i>  <i>Please write in and describe as clearly as possible.</i> ..... .....



**ISCO08\_3**

What does/did the firm/organisation you work/worked for mainly make or do – i.e., what kind of production/function is/was performed at your workplace?

*If you work for more than one employer, or if you are both employed and self-employed, please refer to your main job.*

*If you are retired or not currently working, please refer to your last main job.*

Please write in and describe as clearly as possible.

.....  
.....

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

Occupations should be coded on the 4-digit level of ISCO08. Occupational area 0 (armed forces occupations) needs some special attention. Since the ISCO variable is numeric, e.g. the 4-digit code 0110 will usually appear as 110 in the data file. Therefore the only valid 3-digit codes in the data file should be the armed forces occupations 110, 210 and 310.

In some special cases information concerning the occupation may be insufficient for 4-digit coding. Instead of coding these cases as [9998] “inadequately described” use 3-digit coding. In those very special cases where 3-digit coding is applied, fill in a zero for the missing digit. Example: code 131 is coded as 1310.

Country-specific codes, which are not part of the ISCO coding scheme cannot be accepted!

**6. Other comments**

See comment for WORK about question order.

See EMPREL for “main” job.

## **MAINSTAT "Main status"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the current main status of the respondent. In combination with WORK it is possible to identify whether respondents have dual statuses, e.g. in paid work and student.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

MAINSTAT "Main status"

1	In paid work
2	Unemployed and looking for a job
3	In education
4	Apprentice or trainee
5	Permanently sick or disabled
6	Retired
7	Domestic work
8	In compulsory military service or community service
9	Other
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Which of the following best describes your current situation?

[TN: If there is no such thing as compulsory military or community service in your country, please omit category 8.]

*If you temporarily are not working because of temporary illness/parental leave/vacation/strike etc., please refer to your normal work situation.*

*Please tick one box only.*

1	In paid work (as an employee, self-employed, or working for your own family's business)
2	Unemployed and looking for a job
3	In education (not paid for by employer), in school/student/pupil even if on vacation
4	Apprentice or trainee
5	Permanently sick or disabled
6	Retired
7	Doing housework, looking after the home, children or other persons
8	In compulsory military service or community service
9	Other

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

In case of multiple answers in self-completion, please use the lowest score.

### **6. Other comments**

"Main" status refers to the self-assessed main status of the respondent.

See comment for WORK about question order.

## ***PARTLIV “Living in steady partnership”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to identify steady partnerships and whether the respondent is living in the same household as his/her partner. Steady partnership also includes marriage.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

PARTLIV “Living in steady partnership”

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Yes, have partner; live in same household*       |
| 2 | Yes, have partner; don't live in same household* |
| 3 | No partner                                       |
| 7 | Refused  |
| 9 | No answer  |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Do you have a spouse or a steady partner and, if yes, do you share the same household?  
[TN: Country-specific terms such as ‘common-law spouse’ (GB) or ‘Lebensgefährte’ (DE) may be used here to clarify the meaning of “steady partner”.]

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Yes, I have a spouse/partner and we share the same household        |
| 2 | Yes, I have a spouse/partner, but we don't share the same household |
| 3 | No, I don't have a spouse/partner                                   |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

If possible, please follow the recommended question position and order of PARTLIV (first, immediately preceding the questions on partner's work) and MARITAL (second, immediately following the questions on income). Note that PARTLIV must not be filtered by responses to MARITAL.

\* See household definition at HOMPOP to define the meaning of household

## **SPWORK "Spouse, partner: currently, formerly or never in paid work"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the spouse's/partner's current or former involvement in the labour market or economic activity. The extent and type of this involvement will be covered elsewhere.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if PARTLIV = 1 or 2 or 9, respondent is in a steady partnership or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

SPWORK "Spouse, partner: currently, formerly or never in paid work"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Currently in paid work                            |
| 2 | Currently not in paid work, paid work in the past |
| 3 | Never had paid work                               |
| 9 | No answer   |
| 0 | NAP (Code 3 or 7 in PARTLIV)                      |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Is your spouse/partner currently working for pay, did he/she work for pay in the past, or has he/she never been in paid work?

*By work we mean doing income-producing work, as an employee, self-employed or working for his/her own family's business, for at least one hour per week. If he/she temporarily is not working for pay because of temporary illness/parental leave/vacation/strike, etc., please refer to his/her normal work situation.*

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | He/she is currently in paid work  |
| 2 | He/she is currently not in paid work but he/she had paid work in the past |
| 3 | He/she has never had paid work  |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Include all paid work for at least one hour per week.

### **6. Other comments**

The ISSP prefers the following question order:

SPWORK → SPWRKHRS → SPEMPREL → SPWRKSUP → SPISCO08 → SPMAINST.

**SPWRKHRS "Spouse, partner: hours worked weekly"**

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the total number of hours per week the spouse/partner usually spends working (summing up all jobs if the respondent has more than one), including any regular overtime (irrespective of whether this is paid or unpaid overtime).

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if SPWORK = 1 or 9, spouse/partner currently in paid work or did not answer.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

SPWRKHRS "Spouse, partner: hours worked weekly, spouse"

1	1 hour
...	
96	96 hours or more
98	Don't know
99	No answer
00	NAP (Code 0, 2 or 3 in SPWORK)

**4. Example question text(s)**

How many hours, on average, does your spouse/partner usually work for pay in a normal week, including overtime?

*If he/she works for more than one employer, or if he/she is both employed and self-employed, please count the total number of working hours that he/she does.*

*If he/she temporarily is not working because of temporary illness/parental leave/vacation/strike etc., please refer to his/her normal work situation.*

*Please write in.*

On average, he/she works.....hours a week, overtime included.

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

Round to full hours.

**6. Other comments**

See comment for SPWORK about question order.

## **SPEMPREL "Spouse, partner: employment relationship"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to distinguish between spouses/partners being employees and self-employed spouses/partners.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if SPWORK=1 or 2 or 9, spouse/partner in current or past paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

SPEMPREL "Spouse, partner: employment relationship"

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Employee                          |
| 2 | Self-employed without employees   |
| 3 | Self-employed with employees      |
| 4 | Working for own family's business |
| 9 | No answer                         |
| 0 | NAP (Code 0 or 3 in SPWORK)       |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Is/was your spouse/partner an employee, self-employed, or working for his/her own family's business?

[TN: Country-specific terms such as 'wage employee' or 'wage worker' may be used here to clarify the meaning of "employee".]

*If he/she is both employed and self-employed, please refer to his/her main job.*

*If he/she is retired or not currently working, please refer to his/her last main job.*

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | An employee                               |
| 2 | Self-employed without employees           |
| 3 | Self-employed with employees              |
| 4 | Working for his/her own family's business |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

See instructions at EMPREL.

### **6. Other comments**

See comment on EMPREL.

See comment for SPWORK about question order.

## **SPWRKSUP "Spouse, partner: supervise other employees"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure whether the spouse/partner supervises/supervised others at work. Supervision is to be understood as a leadership function of monitoring and being responsible for the work of others.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if SPWORK=1 or 2 or 9, spouse/partner in current or past paid work or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

SPWRKSUP "Spouse, partner: supervise other employees"

1	Yes
2	No
8	Don't know
9	No answer
0	NAP (Code 0 or 3 in SPWORK)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Does/did your spouse/partner supervise other employees?

[TN: Supervision is to be understood as a leadership function of monitoring and being responsible for the work of others.]

*If he/she works for more than one employer, or if he/she is both employed and self-employed, please refer to his/her main job.*

*If he/she is retired or not currently working, please refer to his/her last main job.*

*Please tick one box only.*

1	Yes
2	No

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

See comment for SPWORK about question order.

**SPISCO08 “Spouse, partner: occupation ISCO 2008”**

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the spouse’s/partner’s current or former main occupation, using the 4-digit 2008 ISCO/ILO occupation code.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if SPWORK=1 or 2 or 9, spouse/partner in current or past paid work or did not answer.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

SPISCO08 “Spouse, partner: occupation ISCO 2008”

0110-9629	(ISCO08 unit codes)
9998	Don't know, inadequately described
9999	No answer
0000	NAP (Code 0 or 3 in SPWORK)

**4. Example question text(s)**

Three example questions are provided: SPISCO08\_1, SPISCO08\_2, and SPISCO08\_3. We strongly suggest that occupation is asked using at least two questions, and that priority should be given to the information asked for in SPISCO08\_1 and SPISCO08\_2.

<b>SPISCO08_1</b>
What is/was your spouse’s/partner’s occupation – i.e., what is/was the name or title of his/her main job? <i>If he/she works for more than one employer, or if he/she is both employed and self-employed, please refer to his/her <u>main</u> job. If he/she is retired or not currently working, please refer to his/her last main job.</i>  <i>Please write in and describe as clearly as possible.</i> His/her occupation is/was: ..... .....

<b>SPISCO08_2</b>
In his/her main job, what kind of activities does/did he/she do most of the time? <i>If he/she works for more than one employer, or if he/she is both employed and self-employed, please refer to his/her <u>main</u> job. If he/she is retired or not currently working, please refer to his/her last main job.</i>  <i>Please write in and describe as clearly as possible.</i> ..... .....



**SPISCO08\_3**

What does/did the firm/organisation he/she work/worked for mainly make or do – i.e., what kind of production/function is/was performed at his/her workplace?

*If he/she works for more than one employer, or if he/she is both employed and self-employed, please refer to his/her main job.*

*If he/she is retired or not currently working, please refer to his/her last main job.*

*Please write in and describe as clearly as possible.*

.....  
.....

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

Occupations should be coded on the 4-digit level of ISCO08. Occupational area 0 (armed forces occupations) needs some special attention. Since the ISCO variable is numeric, e.g. the 4-digit code 0110 will usually appear as 110 in the data file. Therefore the only valid 3-digit codes in the data file should be the armed forces occupations 110, 210 and 310.

In some special cases information concerning the occupation may be insufficient for 4-digit coding. Instead of coding these cases as [9998] “inadequately described” use 3-digit coding. In those very special cases where 3-digit coding is applied, fill in a zero for the missing digit. Example: code 131 is coded as 1310.

Country-specific codes, which are not part of the ISCO coding scheme cannot be accepted!

**6. Other comments**

See comment for SPWORK about question order.

## **SPMAINST "Spouse, partner: main status"**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the current main status of the spouse/partner. In combination with WORK it is possible to identify whether the respondents' spouses/partners have dual statuses, e.g. in paid work and student.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask if PARTLIV = 1 or 2 or 9, respondent is in a steady partnership or did not answer.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

SPMAINST "Spouse, partner: main status"

1	In paid work
2	Unemployed and looking for a job
3	In education
4	Apprentice or trainee
5	Permanently sick or disabled
6	Retired
7	Domestic work
8	In compulsory military service or community service
9	Other
99	No answer
00	NAP (Code 3 or 7 in PARTLIV)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Which of the following best describes your spouse's/partner's current situation?

[TN: If there is no such thing as compulsory military or community service in your country, please omit category 8.]

*If he/she temporarily is not working because of temporary illness/parental leave/vacation/strike etc., please refer to his/her normal work situation.*

*Please tick one box only.*

1	In paid work (as an employee, self-employed, or working for his/her own family's business)
2	Unemployed and looking for a job
3	In education (not paid for by employer), in school/student/pupil even if on vacation
4	Apprentice or trainee
5	Permanently sick or disabled
6	Retired
7	Doing housework, looking after the home, children or other persons
8	In compulsory military service or community service
9	Other

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

In case of multiple answers in self-completion, please use the lowest score.

### **6. Other comments**

See comment for SPWORK about question order.

## **UNION “Trade union membership”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure both the respondent’s current and the respondent’s former trade or labour union membership.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

UNION “Trade union membership”

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Yes, currently                    |
| 2 | Yes, previously but not currently |
| 3 | No, never                         |
| 7 | Refused                           |
| 9 | No answer                         |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Are you or have you ever been a member of a trade union or similar organisation?

If yes: is that currently or only previously?

[TN: Country-specific terms may be used here to clarify the meaning of “union membership”.]

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Yes, currently                    |
| 2 | Yes, previously but not currently |
| 3 | No, never                         |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

Trade or labour union membership refers to a membership in all kinds of unions or organisations of employees whose goals are to promote the economic and social interests of its members in particular with regard to wages, working hours, or working conditions. In some countries, professional associations, i.e. of physicians, engineers, or teachers, have similar functions as trade unions and should thus be included. These unions and professional associations may organise different sections of employees (i.e. within a particular craft or industry) and may comprise individual employees, professionals, past employees or unemployed as well.

## ***nat\_RELIG “Country-specific: religious affiliation”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent’s religious affiliation and belonging to a religion such as a formal membership in a church, or denomination, or an affiliation to a religion/denomination (by e.g. christening or another initiation rite).

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_RELIG “Country-specific: religious affiliation”

997	Refused
999	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Do you belong to a religion and, if yes, which religion do you belong to?

[TN: Terminology for religious groups is extremely diverse across countries. ISSP members therefore have many different options to ask for religious affiliation in order to reflect the heterogeneity or homogeneity of local conditions. Either detailed lists of options or very compressed question formats may work.

If an open-ended question format is used, responses must be coded at least to the level of detail defined in the RELIGGRP variable. If a closed format is used (usually with an open ‘other’ category), the same applies to coding the ‘other’ category.]

*Please tick one box only.*

[List of country-specific categories]

0	No religion
1	Catholic
2	Protestant
3	Orthodox
4	Other Christian
5	Jewish
6	Islamic
7	Buddhist
8	Hindu
9	Other Asian Religions
10	Other Religions

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

An English translation of original country-specific categories should be provided in the BV documentation template.

At a minimum, all categories of the ISSP list on religious groups (see RELIGGRP) should always be collected with the national survey, even if some categories may apply only to very small minorities in a particular country. Note that, for this reason, it is necessary to include even the rare categories in the national questionnaire. However, the categories given in the sample question above need not be used verbatim and their sequence may also be country-specific.

### **6. Other comments**

-

## **RELIGGRP “Comparative: groups of religious affiliations”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent’s religious affiliation in order to facilitate international comparison.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

RELIGGRP “Comparative: groups of religious affiliations”

0	No religion
1	Catholic
2	Protestant
3	Orthodox
4	Other Christian
5	Jewish
6	Islamic
7	Buddhist
8	Hindu
9	Other Asian Religions
10	Other Religions
97	Refused
98	Information insufficient
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Derived variable.

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

The groups of religious affiliation must be asked country-specific via nat\_RELIG; harmonised ISSP categories are to be computed from the country-specific religious affiliation (nat\_RELIG). Correspondence lists between country-specific categories and categories of the ISSP RELIGGRP variable must be reported in detail in the BV documentation template.

### **6. Other comments**

-

## **ATTEND “Attendance of religious services”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the frequency of the respondent’s attendance at religious services.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask ALL respondents, including those for whom ‘no religion’ is coded in RELIGGRP.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

ATTEND “Attendance of religious services”

1	Several times a week or more often
2	Once a week
3	2 or 3 times a month
4	Once a month
5	Several times a year
6	Once a year
7	Less frequently than once a year
8	Never
97	Refused
98	Don't know
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Apart from such special occasions as weddings, funerals, etc., how often do you attend religious services?

*Please tick one box only.*

1	Several times a week or more often
2	Once a week
3	2 or 3 times a month
4	Once a month
5	Several times a year
6	Once a year
7	Less frequently than once a year
8	Never

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

If codes '2' and '3' cannot be distinguished, '2' should be coded.

If your country cannot use such an exclusive version of attendance as intended in the coding frame, please clearly indicate this when depositing the data.

### **6. Other comments**

“Several times a week” also includes attendance every day, several times a day.

**TOPBOT “Top-Bottom self-placement”**

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the respondent’s self-assessed personal social status in a hypothetical societal hierarchy.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

TOPBOT “Top-Bottom self-placement”

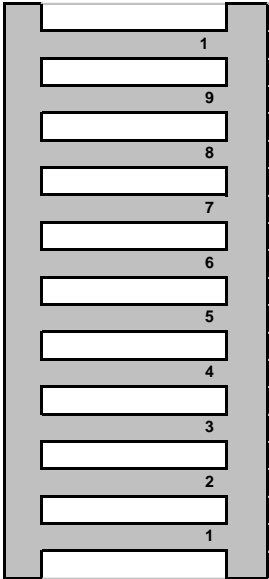
- 1        Lowest, Bottom
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10       Highest, Top
- 98       Don’t know
- 99       No answer

**4. Example question text(s)**

In our society, there are groups which tend to be towards the top and groups which tend to be towards the bottom. Below is a scale that runs from the top to the bottom.  
Where would you put yourself on this scale?

[Questionnaire design: Present scale with highest categories and values at the top! If possible, graphically depict a ladder, see example below.]

*Please tick one box only*

	TOP	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>10</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	TOP
	BOTTOM		BOTTOM

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

**6. Other comments**

-



## **VOTE\_LE “Did respondent vote in last general election?”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure respondent’s participation in the most recent prominent national election, e.g. the most recent federal election. The national ISSP coordinator should judge which is the most prominent national election to be included in the question.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

VOTE\_LE “Did respondent vote in last general election?”

0	Not eligible to vote in last election
1	Yes
2	No
7	Refused
9	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Some people don't vote nowadays for one reason or another. Did you vote in the last [country] national election in [month/year]?

*Please tick one box only.*

1	Yes, I did vote
2	No, I did not vote
0	I was not eligible to vote in the last election

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

Please note that the most recent election is not automatically the most prominent national election. Please use the same national election consistently in your national ISSP surveys to allow for cross-temporal analyses. For EU-members: Don't use EU elections. It is highly recommended to add the month/year of the election in the question text to clarify for the respondent.

***nat\_PRTY “Country-specific: party respondent voted for in last general election”***

**1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to identify the name of the party the respondent voted for in the most recent prominent national election, e.g. the most recent federal election.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask VOTE\_LE=1 or 9; respondent voted in the most recent prominent national election or did not answer.

**3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_PRTY “Country-specific: party affiliation”

...

96	Invalid ballot
97	Refused
99	No answer
00	NAP (Code 0, 2, 7 in VOTE_LE)

**4. Example question text(s)**

[Thinking back to the last general election in [month/year].] Which party did you vote for?

*Please tick one box only.*

[Closed list of country-specific political parties plus open ‘other’ option]

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

National parties reported are coded country-specifically. Names and abbreviations for parties should be supplied in the original language in the value labels. Full party names and their possible abbreviations should be supplied in the original language and in English translation in the BV documentation template.

**6. Other comments**

Please note that the most recent election is not automatically the most recent *prominent* national election. Please use the same national election consistently in your national ISSP surveys to allow for cross-temporal analyses. For EU-members: Don’t use EU elections. It is highly recommended to add the month/year of the election in the question text to clarify for the respondent. Don’t offer “cannot remember” as answer category included in the question text.

If nat\_PRTY directly follows VOTE\_LE then the text presented in squared brackets can be omitted.

For ISSP face-to-face surveys, please use showcards.

## ***PARTY\_LR “Party respondent voted for in last general election: left – right scale”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to assess the ideological position of the political party the respondent has voted for (as measured by nat\_PRTY), placed on an ideological left-right continuum by expert judgment on party positions.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

PARTY\_LR “Party respondent voted for in last general election: left – right scale”

1	Far left (communist, etc.)
2	Left / centre left
3	Centre / liberal
4	Right / conservative
5	Far right (fascist, etc.)
6	Other
96	Invalid ballot
97	Refused
98	Insufficient information to code into scheme
99	No answer
00	NAP (Code 0, 2, 7 in VOTE_LE)

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Derived variable

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

PARTY\_LR should be derived by expert judgment from the country-specific parties (nat\_PRTY) into the scheme above.

The classification of national parties into the left-right scheme must be provided in detail in the national BV documentation template.

### **6. Other comments**

Do NOT use a question on ideological self-placement here!

Do NOT ask respondents about the placement of the party they are attached with on a left-right scale here!

For expertise in electoral systems, the country-specific macro reports of the CSES<sup>2</sup> can be consulted where national experts judge the ideological position of their country’s major parties.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.umich.edu/~cses/download/module2/module2mirror.htm>

**nat\_ETHN1 “Country-specific: ethnic group 1”**

**nat\_ETHN2 “Country-specific: ethnic group 2”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of these variables is to capture the respondent's self-assessed affiliation with one or two particular ethnic groups. The flexibility of this measurement approach is supposed to do justice to the diversity of components of ethnicity in different societies.

In case the respondent uses the opportunity to name two ethnic groups s/he feels affiliated with, there is no ranking implied between the two responses. Asking for the second affiliation is not optional!

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_ETHN1 “Country-specific: ethnic group1”

nat\_ETHN2 “Country-specific: ethnic group2”

97	Refused
98	Don't know
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Please indicate which of the following group or groups you consider yourself to belong to.

*Please select one or two groups only.*

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

...

Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

None

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

In ISSP face-to-face surveys, please, present a showcard and record two answers at maximum. Make sure all respondents get the opportunity to name a second affiliation to an ethnic group. Accordingly, the item transfers into two country-specific categorical variables.

### **6. Other comments**

The country-specific list of ethnic groups should be based on the core concept of ancestry which, deviating in different countries, can be founded on genetic, cultural or historical roots. The list may capture one specific dimension of ethnicity, such as nationality, citizenship, race, language or religion, depending on which aspect is particularly relevant in the country. But, since the list can be freely developed due to national specific needs, it may also contain multi-dimensional categories, such as, for example, a combination of nationality and language. Most important is that the categories are meaningful in the country and can be expected to be salient for the respondents. Please, take care to also include the majority ethnic group! I.e. the classification must be exhaustive.

For some examples of national-specific categories see the appendix of this document.

## **HOMPOP “How many persons in household”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to sum up the number of people in the respondent’s private household **including the respondent himself/herself**, additional adults, and children. A household is constituted by its members sharing resources in the same dwelling.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

HOMPOP “How many persons in household”

01	One person (only respondent)
...	
96	NAP (Not a private household)
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Question texts for the variables HOMPOP, HHADULT, HHCHILDR and HHTODD are mode-dependent. For further explanation and question design examples see the BVQ (BV questionnaire, also available on the data deposit portal).

Including yourself, how many people usually live in your household?

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

A household member is someone who at the time of the survey is a person:

- a. Who usually sleeps in the same housing unit.
- b. Whose usual place of residence is the place where the household is located.
- c. Who is usually included in the common arrangement of the household for preparation and consumption of food.

Thus the following persons are included in the household count:

- d. Who is temporarily away but expects to come back and maintain the place where the household is located as usual place of residence.
- e. Who is temporarily staying within the household, has no other place of residence and is certainly not counted elsewhere.

Since HOMPOP is to measure the size of the respondent’s private household, respondents living in collective households, e.g., nursing home or a student residence, are excluded and should be coded 96 “Not a private household”.

### **6. Other comments**

-

## ***HHADULT “How many adults in household”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the number of adults in the respondent’s private household **including the respondent himself/herself**. See household definition at HOMPOP to clarify meaning of household.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Only ask if HOMPOP > 1.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

HHADULT “How many adults in household”

01	One adult (only respondent)
02	Two adults
...	
96	NAP (Not a private household)
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Question texts for the variables HOMPOP, HHADULT, HHCHILDR and HHTODD are mode-dependent. For further explanation and question design examples see the BVQ (BV questionnaire, also available on the data deposit portal).

Again including yourself, how many adults of 18 years and older live in your household?

*Please write in...*

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

See household definition at HOMPOP to clarify meaning of household and which persons are included.

In case of single households according to HOMPOP, the variable must be coded to ‘1’.

### **6. Other comments**

-

## **HHCHILDR “How many children above school entry age in household”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the number of children in the respondent’s household between the compulsory school entry age and 17 years of age. See household definition at HOMPOP to clarify meaning of household.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Only ask if HHADULT is not equal HOMPOP.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

HHCHILDR “How many children in household”

00	No children [school entry age] to 17
01	One child
...	
96	NAP (Not a private household)
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Question texts for the variables HOMPOP, HHADULT, HHCHILDR and HHTODD are mode-dependent. For further explanation and question design examples see the BVQ (BV questionnaire, also available on the data deposit portal).

And how many children between [school entry age] and 17 usually live in your household?  
[TN: The school age threshold – the numbers in square brackets – is determined by the start of compulsory schooling in your country. In a country where the compulsory school starts at age 7, the age category in the question should be: "Children between 7-17 years of age"]

*Please write in...*

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Respondents without children as well as those who have small children younger than school entry age need to be coded on “0” here.

Children included in the household are those regularly staying within the household, having no other place of residence and are certainly not counted elsewhere. This might include children without any biological relationship with adult household members.

### **6. Other comments**

Please, note that compulsory schooling age is country-specific. Please, report this age threshold for your country in the BV documentation template.

## **HHTODD “How many children below school age in household”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the number of younger children up to the age of compulsory schooling in the respondent’s household. See household definition at HOMPOP to clarify meaning of household.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Only ask if HOMPOP is not equal HHADULT + HHCHILDR.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

HHTODD “How many children below school age in household”

00	No children below [age of school entry]
01	One child below [age of school entry]
...	
96	NAP (Not a private household)
99	No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Question texts for the variables HOMPOP, HHADULT, HHCHILDR and HHTODD are mode-dependent. For further explanation and question design examples see the BVQ (BV questionnaire, also available on the data deposit portal).

How many children below [school entry age] live in your household?

[TN: The school age threshold – the numbers in square brackets – is determined by the start of compulsory schooling in your country. In a country where compulsory schooling starts at age 7, the age category in the question should be: "Children up to the age of 6".]

*Please write in...*

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Respondents without children as well as those who have older children between the compulsory school entry age and 17 years of age need to be coded on “0” here.

Children included in the household are those regularly staying within the household, having no other place of residence and are certainly not counted elsewhere. This might include children without any biological relationship with adult household members.

### **6. Other comments**

Please, note that compulsory schooling age is country-specific. Please, report this age threshold for your country in the BV documentation template.



## **nat\_RINC “Country-specific: personal income”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of these variables is to measure the respondent's personal income in national currency.

The preferred definition of respondent's personal income is the average monthly gross income of the respondent (before taxes and all other deductions) from all sources (e.g. work income, interest or dividends, property income, rent, pensions, welfare support, money personally provided by somebody, etc.).

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_RINC “Country-specific: personal income”

...  
000000 No income  
999997 Refused  
999998 Don't know  
999999 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Before taxes and other deductions, what on average is your own total monthly income?

[TN: Explanatory notes can be added to remind respondents of country-specific deductions.]

*Please write in.*

My total monthly income is on average ..... [national currency]

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Please deliver any income information in the local currency of your country.

Respondents should report/estimate amounts of income as exactly as possible. If this cannot be done, classes or brackets may be used. If the income information is collected by asking for income classes or brackets, please code class midpoints in local currency.

The number of digits for the missing values can be extended if this is necessary due to the national currency.

The following information should be provided in the background variables documentation:

- 1) period of time: yearly / monthly / weekly / other
- 2) taxation: before / after or other deductions
- 3) social insurance: before / after
- 4) child allowances: included / excluded
- 5) explicitly list other subsidies, income sources, deductions
- 6) classes or individual amounts (in country-specific currency)
- 7) name of the reported currency and unit

### **6. Other comments**

-

## ***nat\_INC “Country-specific: household income”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of these variables is to measure the household income in national currency. The preferred definition for household income is the average monthly gross income of the household (before taxes and all other deductions), from all sources (e.g. work income, interest or dividends, property income, rent, pensions, welfare support, money personally provided by somebody, etc.) from all household members including the respondent.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Please also see coding instructions for handling filtered cases.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_INC “Country-specific: household income”

...  
000000 No income  
999997 Refused  
999998 Don't know  
999999 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Before taxes and other deductions, what on average is the total monthly income of your household?

[TN: Explanatory notes can be added to remind respondents of country-specific deductions.]

*Please write in.*

The total monthly income of my household is on average ..... [national currency]

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

For single-person households (HOMPOP=1), please code the personal income (nat\_RINC) of the respondent here again.

Please deliver any income information in the local currency of your country.

Respondents should report/estimate amounts of income as exactly as possible. If this cannot be done, classes or brackets may be used. If the income information is collected by asking for income classes or brackets, please code class midpoints in local currency.

The number of digits for the missing values can be extended if this is necessary due to the national currency.

The following information should be provided in the background variables documentation:

- 1) period of time: yearly / monthly / weekly / other
- 2) taxation: before / after or other deductions
- 3) social insurance: before / after
- 4) child allowances: included / excluded
- 5) explicitly list other subsidies, income sources, deductions
- 6) classes or individual amounts (in country-specific currency)
- 7) name of the reported currency and unit
- 8) country-specific definition of household

### **6. Other comments**

See household definition at HOMPOP to define the meaning of household.

## **MARITAL “Legal partnership status”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the current ‘legal’ marital status of the respondent.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

MARITAL “Legal partnership status”

- 1 Married
- 2 Civil partnership
- 3 Separated from spouse/civil partner (still legally married/still legally in a civil partnership)
- 4 Divorced from spouse/legally separated from civil partner
- 5 Widowed/civil partner died
- 6 Never married/never in a civil partnership
- 7 Refused
- 9 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

What is your current legal marital status?

[TN: “Civil partnership” is a government recognized partnership without being married. The specific conditions for civil partnerships vary widely across countries. Depending on country’s regulations, this includes any legal homo- or heterosexual partnerships distinct from legal marriage.

Principle investigators: Please, give some guidelines in the introduction of the question to clarify what “civil partnership” means in your country. Please, use the country-specific legal term in your national language.

For countries with governments that do not formally recognize legal civil partnerships please, omit category 2 and adjust text of categories 3 to 6.]

*Please tick one box only.*

- 1 Married
- 2 [Civil partnership]
- 3 Separated from my spouse/civil partner (but still legally married/still legally in a civil partnership)
- 4 Divorced from spouse/legally separated from my civil partner
- 5 Widowed/my civil partner died
- 6 I have never been married/never been in a civil partnership

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

-

### **6. Other comments**

‘Living as married’ or ‘de facto married’ is no legal partnership status and therefore not of relevance to this variable. See, however, PARTLIV.

If possible, please follow the recommended question position and order of PARTLIV (first, immediately preceding the questions on partner’s work) and MARITAL (second, immediately following the question on household income). Note that MARITAL must not be filtered by responses to PARTLIV.

## ***F\_BORN “Father’s country of birth”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to capture a respondent’s possible migration background.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

F\_BORN “Father’s country of birth”

997 Refused

999 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

In which country was your father born?

*Please write in.*

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

*Please, ask only for countries and not for sub-national regions or areas! Code countries according to ISO3166-1 wherever possible. If the country of birth does not exist anymore under the former name, code the current country where the birthplace is located.*

*Please, report responses that cannot be coded in ISO3166-1 to the Archive verbatim.*

### **6. Other comments**

-

## ***M\_BORN “Mother’s country of birth”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to capture a respondent’s possible migration background.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

M\_BORN “Mother’s country of birth”

97 Refused

99 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

In which country was your mother born?

*Please write in.*

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

*Please, ask only for countries and not for regions or areas! Code countries according to ISO3166-1 wherever possible. If the country of birth does not exist anymore under the former name, code the current country where the birthplace is located.*

*Please, report responses that cannot be coded in ISO3166-1 to the Archive verbatim.*

### **6. Other comments**

-

## **URBRURAL “Place of living: urban – rural”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to measure the degree of urbanity of the respondent’s current place of living based on self-assessment by the respondent. URBRURAL is to cover aspects of urbanity ranging from big cities to a home in the country that is isolated and away from a village or town.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

Ask all.

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

URBRURAL “Place of living: Urban – Rural”

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | A big city                             |
| 2 | The suburbs or outskirts of a big city |
| 3 | A town or a small city                 |
| 4 | A country village                      |
| 5 | A farm or home in the country          |
| 9 | No answer                              |

### **4. Example question text(s)**

Would you describe the place where you live as...

*Please tick one box only.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | A big city                             |
| 2 | The suburbs or outskirts of a big city |
| 3 | A small city or town                   |
| 4 | A country village                      |
| 5 | A farm or home in the country          |

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

The number of inhabitants behind the terms “big city”, “town”, “country village”, etc. need not be specified in terms of number of inhabitants and can differ across countries.

### **6. Other comments**

Don’t use objective indicators, e.g. size of place, coming from the survey administration!

## ***nat\_REG “Country-specific: region”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

The aim of this variable is to identify the administrative region where the respondent lives, using official statistical region coding systems.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

nat\_REG “Country-specific: region”

9999 No answer

### **4. Example question text(s)**

-

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

The first preference is to have nat\_REG provided as an administrative variable by the field organisation.

Please indicate explicitly whether nat\_REG was derived from the sampling frame (without the interviewer having to fill the information in), was filled in by the interviewer or asked from respondents.

Use NUTS 3 codes for the EU, where possible. Non-EU countries please use national statistical codes. Country-specific codes should be supplied together with data and further documentation on the kind of regional unit used.

### **6. Other comments**

The Archive will assume that national privacy regulations have been obeyed by the ISSP member providing the national dataset and will not perform any checks before redistribution.

## **CASEID “ID No. of respondent”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

This variable attaches a unique identification number to each respondent.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

CASEID “ID No. of respondent”

Numerical variable with up to six integer digits

### **4. Example question text(s)**

-

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

Please provide unique (no duplicate numbers) ID numbers for all cases in your country’s data set. Compliance with your local legislation on privacy protection is assumed by the Archive; numbers which allow tracing respondents’ names or other information under privacy protection rules should be avoided. If the ID numbers in the deposited file are not the original ID numbers of your raw data file, take care that you are able to reconstruct the correspondence of original and deposited IDs in the future. If possible, avoid ID numbers with more than six digits.

The final ID variable in the integrated international file will be coded by the Archive, to a format combining the module year, the country/sample (extended ISO code with one decimal place where the decimal marker will be omitted), and the original ID number into the final ISSP ID variable.

CASEID	year	country	ID number
e.g. 20062761000001 means:	2006	2761	000001

### **6. Other comments**

-



## ***SUBSCASE “Case substitution flag”***

### **1. Measurement goal**

SUBSCASE is to indicate whether a respondent is from the original sampling frame or is substituted for some reason (interview not obtained because of invalid address, no contact, refusal, etc.)

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

SUBSCASE “Case substitution flag”

0	NAP, no substitution in this survey
1	Case from original sample
2	Case substituted

### **4. Example question text(s)**

-

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

If SUBSTITUTION is used – no matter whether substitution is used in the case of refusals, or non-contacts, or whether sampling points are substituted – please code all these interviews as substituted cases. Please don't forget to code cases of substituted sampling points also as individually substituted cases.

If NO substitution is allowable in your survey, code all interviews as NAP.

This information needs to be reported by the interviewer/the field institute for each individual interview.

### **6. Other comments**

-

***DATEYR “Year of interview”***

***DATEMO “Month of interview”***

***DATEDY “Day of interview”***

**1. Measurement goal**

The three variables DATEYR, DATEMO, and DATEDY record the date of the interview.

**2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

**3. Variable definition/code list**

DATEYR	Year of interview: YYYY (four digits)
DATEMO	Month of interview: MM (two digits)
DATEDY	Day of interview: DD (two digits)

**4. Example question text(s)**

-

**5. Coding & classification instructions**

To be filled in by the interviewer/field institute for face-to-face surveys. For self-administered surveys, please give the date of questionnaire return at the field institute.

**6. Other comments**

-

## **WEIGHT “Weight”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

This weight variable serves to compensate for unequal selection probabilities introduced by sampling design or non-response.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

WEIGHT “Weight”

1          No weighting

### **4. Example question text(s)**

-

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

To be provided by principle investigators and the field institute.

ISSP members who deliver WEIGHT are asked to provide a full description of their weighting variable when completing the Study Monitoring Questionnaire: how is it created; does it have design, post-stratification, non-response components; for which reasons and how/when should it be used or not.

### **6. Other comments**

-

## **MODE “Administrative mode of data-collection”**

### **1. Measurement goal**

This variable records the administrative mode/method of data-collection.

### **2. Filtering questions/respondent universe**

-

### **3. Variable definition/code list**

MODE “Administrative mode of data-collection”

10	F2F/PAPI, no visuals
11	F2F/PAPI, visuals
12	F2F/PAPI, respondent reading questionnaire
13	F2F/PAPI, interpreter or translator – no visuals
14	F2F/PAPI, interpreter or translator – visuals
20	CAPI, no visuals
21	CAPI, visuals
22	CAPI, respondent reading questionnaire (paper or on monitor)
23	CAPI, interpreter or translator – no visuals
24	CAPI, interpreter or translator – visuals
30	SC, arrives with interviewer, interviewer attending
31	SC, arrives with interviewer, drops off, picks up later
32	SC, arrives with interviewer, drops off, mailed back by R
33	SC, mailed to, completed by R and hold for pick up
34	SC, mailed to, mailed back by R
40	CASI, self-completion, computer-assisted
41	Self-completion, web questionnaire
52	CAPI, phone
60	CATI, computer assisted telephone interview

### **4. Example question text(s)**

-

### **5. Coding & classification instructions**

To be provided by the field institute.

F2F, codes 10-14: Face-to-face, paper and pencil

CAPI, codes 20-24: Face-to-face, computer-assisted

SC, codes 30-34: Self-completion, paper and pencil

CASI, code 40: Self-completion, computer-assisted

### **6. Other comments**

-

## **List of Abbreviations**

BV	<b>b</b> ackground <b>v</b> ariables
CAPI	<b>c</b> omputer- <b>a</b> ssisted <b>p</b> ersonal interview
CASI	<b>c</b> omputer- <b>a</b> ssisted <b>s</b> elf-interview
DMG	<b>D</b> emographic <b>M</b> ethods <b>G</b> roup
EU	<b>E</b> uropean <b>U</b> nion
F2F	<b>f</b> ace- <b>t</b> o- <b>f</b> ace interview
ID	<b>i</b> dentification
ILO	<b>I</b> nternational <b>L</b> abour <b>O</b> rganization
ISCO	<b>I</b> nternational <b>S</b> tandard <b>C</b> lassification of <b>O</b> ccupations
NAP	<b>n</b> ot <b>a</b> pplicable
NUTS	<i><b>Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques</b></i> (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics)
PAPI	<b>p</b> aper and <b>p</b> encil interview
R	<b>r</b> espondent
SC	<b>s</b> elf- <b>c</b> ompletion interview
TN	<b>t</b> ranslation <b>n</b> ote

## **Appendix**

Examples for setting up meaningful categories of ethnic groups in different societies:

Possible example for Germany:	Possible example for the USA:	Possible example for Slovenia:
1. German	1. White	1. Slovenian
2. Turkish	2. Black or African American	2. Italian
3. Russian	3. Hispanic	3. Hungarian
4. Polish	4. American Indian or Alaska Native	[...] 9. Bosnian, Muslim
5. Italian		12. Roma
6. Other	5. Other	13. Other