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**Guide for the ISSP “Religion” cumulation of the years
1991, 1998 and 2008
(ZA5070 and ZA5071)**

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This guideline is intended to give an overview on the contents, the structure and basic coding rules of the ISSP “Religion I-III” cumulation. Further, variable-related information is available through the study documentation on ZACAT¹.

The data release consists of two separate data files. The main file, ZA5070 “ISSP Cumulation Religion I-III”, contains only cumulated variables. That means it includes:

- all topic-related variables of the master questionnaires, so called module variables, which appear in at least two “Religion” modules and
- most of the so called background variables, mostly covering demographics, which appear in at least two “Religion” modules collected by
- all those ISSP member countries that participated in at least two “Religion” modules (28 countries).

However, there are other, mainly national-specific background variables, which belong to the current ISSP standard, but cannot be cumulated for various reasons. Although not being comparative over time, these variables might still be useful for many analyses. Therefore they are integrated in a second data file with the study number ZA5071 “ISSP Cumulation Religion Add On”. ZA5071 is a separate data file going along with separate documentation on ZACAT. The contained variables, however, can be matched easily to the cumulated file if necessary.

The cumulation and its “Add On” file are based on the data of the integrated data files of the modules 1991 (ZA2150), 1998 (ZA3190) and 2008 (ZA4950). It does not go back to the individual country files of each module. A general rule is that the cumulated data follow the coding of the 2008 module as closely as possible, because this module represents the most updated ISSP standard. In terms of the background variables that means that whenever the module data allows it, the coding of the “The ISSP Background Variable Standard” set in 2001([bv2001_20060425.pdf](#)), is realized, again, as closely as possible.

¹ ZACAT (<http://zacat.gesis.org>) offers direct and comprehensive access to a variety of social science survey data with a focus on international comparative studies and election studies. It enables users to locate and search for appropriate studies, to analyse data online and to download data sets or subsets of them in different formats (among others SPSS, SAS, Stata). Access to ZACAT is free of charge, analysis and download requires registration.

1. Countries

Over the three years the “Religion” surveys have been conducted, the following countries participated:

	1991	1998	2008
Australia	X	X	X
Austria	X	X	X
Chile		X	X
Cyprus		X	X
Czech Republic		X	X
Denmark		X	X
France		X	X
Germany	X	X	X
Hungary	X	X	X
Ireland	X	X	X
Israel	X	X	X
Italy	X	X	X
Japan		X	X
Latvia		X	X
Netherlands	X	X	X
New Zealand	X	X	X
Norway	X	X	X
Philippines	X	X	X
Poland	X	X	X
Portugal		X	X
Russia	X	X	X
Slovakia		X	X
Slovenia	X	X	X
Spain		X	X
Sweden		X	X
Switzerland		X	X
United Kingdom	X	X	X
USA	X	X	X

For Germany as well as for the United Kingdom there are two subsamples available in the data for each year. In case of Germany one sample contains the West German respondents and the other one the East German respondents. In case of the United Kingdom, the two subsamples contain Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Eastern Germany as well as Northern Ireland are overrepresented in the integrated data files, which should be taken into account if either Germany or the United Kingdom are analysed as one unit.

2. Variables

Both data files contain a number of administrative variables:

The “Study number” (V1) and the “GESIS Archive Version” (V2) exactly indicate the data file at hand. The respondent’s ID-numbers (V3) are those of the integrated data files and have not been changed for better comparability of the cumulated with the integrated data of each individual module. However, the ID numbers are only unique within their respective country and year of the module. To provide a unique identification across the data files it is necessary to combine V3 and V7.

While V4 “Year” allows the splitting of the data by modules, variables V5 and V6 indicate the countries. The “Country” variable (V6) offers codes for the country as a whole, whereas the “Country_Sample” variable (V5) specifies also the subsamples within certain countries. As a “cumulation specific” variable, V7 “Country_Sample_Year” combines the information of V5 and V4, prepared as a supporting tool for analysis. According to the current ISSP standard, the codes for all three variables which deal with country identification make use of international three-digit “ISO 3166 Codes”.

To match both datasets it is necessary to use the “ID” variable V3 as well as the “Country_Sample_Year” variable V7 as key variables.

Example for SPSS:

`SORT CASES by V3 V7. /** use this on BOTH input files.`

`MATCH FILES`

`/FILE='put path of your data file here\ZA5070.sav'`

`/FILE='put path of your data file here\ZA5071.sav'`

`/BY V3 V7.`

`EXECUTE.`

2.1 Variables of the cumulated data file ZA5070 “ISSP Cumulation Religion I-III”

All module variables, which have been asked in at least two “Religion” modules, are included in the cumulated data file ZA5070. For a detailed overview on these variables see the correspondence list at section 6 of this document.

Besides the module variables, ZA5070 contains the following background variables:

SEX, AGE, MARITAL, COHAB, EDUCYRS, DEGREE, WRKST, WRKHRS, ISCO88, WRKSTUP, WRKTYPE, SELFEMP, NEMPLOY, UNION, SPWRKST, SPISCO88, HOMPOP, HHCYCLE, PARTY_LR, VOTE_LE, ATTEND, ATTEND_EXT, RELIGGRP, CLASS, nat_REG and WEIGHT

The “Region” variable (nat_REG) is the only national-specific variable that can be cumulated over time, because the administrative divisions of regions did not change too much over the

years. According to the current ISSP standard it is split by country, but cumulated over the module years.

2.2 Variables of the supplementary data file ZA5071 “ISSP Cumulation Religion Add On”

The “ISSP Cumulation Religion Add On” data file ZA5071 contains all those background variables which cannot be cumulated for various reasons. The national-specific variables are all split by country as well as by module. A prefix of two ISO code letters indicates the country and a two-digit suffix the module year.

- **nat_DEG** for the years 1991 and 2008

The national-specific DEGREE variables for 1998 do not appear in the data file, because in 1998 the countries were supposed to hand in a standardized DEGREE variable, which is not national-specific at all. For DEGREE 1998 see the cumulated variable in the cumulated data file.

- **National occupation variables (nat_OCC and nat_SOC)** for 1991, when the ISCO scheme had not been established as a standard yet. Only Australia provided an ISCO code in 1991 that could be cumulated in the main file.
- Respondent's income and Family income for the years 1991, 1998 and 2008 (**nat_RIN and nat_INC**)

The income variables have been brought to the current ISSP standard. That means that for the earlier modules, original enumerated value codes for income categories are recoded into the midpoints of the classes for which they stand. These variables could now technically be cumulated. However, in some countries variables have been surveyed quite differently. Information varies widely, for example, whether the survey asked for income per month or year, before or after tax and in what currency. Last but not least, it is hardly useful to cumulate income data in a range of twenty years, without accounting for inflation. These are the reasons why we decided against cumulating these variables.

Germany is a special case. In 1991 information about the respondent's and the family's income was collected in an open question (DE_RI91a/DE_IN91a). Since nonresponse on this question was very high it was additionally asked for income classes (DE_RI91b/DE_IN91b).

- **nat_PRT** for the years 1991, 1998 and 2008
- **nat_SIZ** for the years 1991, 1998 and 2008

- **nat_ETH** for the years 1991, 1998 and 2008

In addition to those national-specific variables, there are some variables that cannot be cumulated, because there is too much coding variation. These variables are available as well in the “ZA5071” file:

- URBRUR91, URBRUR98, URBRUR08

As in the integrated data file, URBRUR91 remains unlabeled, because the information asked for within these variables differs too much across the countries. The country-specific labels, however, are available through the documentation on ZACAT.

Other variables appear in their current form the first time in 2008 and therefore cannot be cumulated:

- TOPBOT08, MODE08, SUBSCA08, SPWRKT08

3. Missing Values

The “Religion” cumulation introduces three codes for missing values which do not appear in the integrated data files in this form. These codes specify certain missing cases in the cumulation explicitly:

-1 'Variable not available for this country in this module'

This missing value is coded in the event that a country did not provide the variable in question.

-2 'Country specific variable not applicable for this country'

This missing value is coded for national-specific variables, indicating the cases of the other countries.

-3 'Variable not available in this module'

This missing value is cumulation-specific and is coded in the case of variables that are not part of a certain module at all. It is also coded, however, in the event that a variable cannot be cumulated and is therefore not available for this module in the cumulation file, but does appear in the “ZA5071” additional data file.

For reasons of consistency all missing values are coded into the negative range. So, those values which appear in the integrated data files as, for example, “8 Can’t choose” and “9 No answer” appear in the cumulated file as “-8 Can’t choose” and “-9 No answer”.

4. ISCO88/SPISCO88

With the exception of Australia, where ISCO88 and SPISCO88 are already available in 1991, these variables appear in the cumulated data file only for the years 1998 and 2008. The mostly national-specific occupation codes and ISCO68 3-digit codes, which are available in the 1991 data for the other countries, cannot be cumulated. However, these variables are available in the additional data file “ZA5071”.

Occupation codes 1991:

ISCO	1991
Austria	ISCO68 (3-digit)*
Germany	ISCO68 (3-digit)*
Great Britain	Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 1991
Hungary	ISCO68 (3-digit)
Ireland	List of occupations and the socio-economic group assigned to them
Israel	Unspecified 1-digit code
Italy	Unspecified 2-digit code
Netherlands	No occupation code available
New Zealand	ISCO68 (3-digit)
Northern Ireland	Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 1991
Norway²	ISCO68 (3-digit)* and Nordic Standard Classification of Occupation
Philippines	Unspecified 2-digit code
Poland	ISCO68 (3-digit)
Russia	Unspecified 2-digit code
Slovenia³	ISCO88 (3-digit)
USA	Census Occupation Code (1980)

*plus additional country specific codes

² The Norwegian occupation variable for the spouse is only available as “Nordic Standard Classification of Occupation”.

³ The Slovenian occupation variable for the spouse is available as unspecified 2-digit code.

5. Additional information

On ZACAT, under the option “Metadata” in the sidebars for the individual modules ZA2150, ZA3190 and ZA4950, there are links to different types of documents: the Study Descriptions, provided by the individual countries, the original national questionnaires, and the master questionnaire. Besides, for 2008 information documents on the original coding of the background variables are available. The national-specific question texts for the cumulated background variables are available for ZA4950 (2008) through these documents, and for all variables through the individual module documentations on ZACAT.

6. Variable correspondence list

Cumulated module variables	ZA2150 (1991)	ZA3190 (1998)	ZA4950 (2008)
V8 How happy or unhappy	V4	V4	V6
V9 Gov. resp: if want job, provide job	V5	V5	
V10 Gov. resp: reduce incm dif rich+poor	V6	V6	
V11 Sexual relations before marriage	V9	V7	V7
V12 Sexual relations with someone other than spouse	V10	V8	V8
V13 Sexual relations between adults of the same sex	V11	V9	V9
V14 Opinion: Abortion if defect in the baby	V14	V10	V10
V15 Abortion if family has very low income	V15	V11	V11
V16 Husband earn money, wifes job is family	V16	V12	V12
V17 Family life suffer if wom. works ft?	V17	V13	
V18 Taxpayer not report income less tax	V18	V16	
V19 Incorrect info to get govt benefits	V19	V17	
V20 Confidence in parliament	V20	V20	V14
V21 Confidence in business and industry	V21	V21	V15
V22 Confidence in business and religious organizations	V23	V22	V16
V23 Confidence in courts and legal system	V24	V23	V17

V24 Confidence in schools and educational system	V25	V24	V18
V25 Religious leaders should not influence vote	V27	V25	V20
V26 Religious leaders should not influence government	V29	V26	V21
V27 Power of churches and religious organizations	V30	V36	V26
V28 Closest to R's beliefs about God	V31	V37	V33
V29 Best describes beliefs about God	V33	V38	V34
V30 Belief in life after death	V34	V39	V35
V31 Belief in heaven	V36	V40	V36
V32 Belief in hell	V37	V41	V37
V33 Belief in religious miracles	V38	V42	V38
V34 Feelings about bible	V39	V43	V71
V35 God concerns Himself with human beings	V40	V44	V42
V36 People can do little to change life	V41	V45	V43
V37 Life meaningful because God exists	V42	V46	V44
V38 Life does not serve any purpose	V43	V47	V45
V39 Life meaningful, provide meaning for yourself	V45	V48	V46
V40 We each make our own fate?	V46	V49	
V41 Turning point new commitment to religion	V49	V50	V72
V42 Mothers religion (group)	V50	V51	V49
V43 Fathers religion (group)	V51	V52	V51
V44 Spouse religion (group)	V52	V54	V55
V45 Religion respondent raised in (group)	V53	V53	V53
V46 R child, mother attend church	V54	V55	V56
V47 R child, father attend church	V55	V56	V57
V48 R age 11-12, R attend church	V56	V57	V58
V49 How often R pray	V57	V58	V59
V50 Take part in church activities	V58	V59	V60
V51 R describes self as religious	V59	V60	V63
V52 Good luck charms to bring good luck	V66	V69	V78

V53 Fortune tellers can see future	V67	V70	V79
V54 Faith healers have god-given healing powers	V68	V71	V80
V55 Horoscope affects course of future	V69	V72	V81
V56 Born again experience	V70	V64	V70
V57 Picture of God: Mother-Father	V71	V65	V74
V58 Picture of God: Master - Spouse	V72	V66	V75
V59 Picture of God: Judge - Lover	V73	V67	V76
V60 Picture of God: Friend - King	V74	V68	V77
V61 World image: Much evil vs. much good	V75	V73	
V62 World image: Human nature is good vs. corrupt	V76	V74	
V63 People can be trusted		V19	V13
V64 Modern science does more harm than good		V27	V22
V65 Too much trust in science		V28	V23
V66 Religions bring conflict		V29	V24
V67 Religious people too intolerant		V30	V25
V68 Closest to R's own views		V61	V65
V69 Law conflicts with religious principles		V75	V82
Background variables			
SEX	SEX (V77)	SEX (V200)	SEX
AGE	AGE (V78)	AGE (201)	AGE
MARITAL	MARITAL (V79)	MARITAL (V202)	MARITAL
COHAB	COHAB (V80)	COHAB (V203)	COHAB
EDUCYRS	EDUCYRS (V98)	EDUCYRS (V204)	EDUCYRS
DEGREE	DEGREE (V99)	DEGREE (V205)	DEGREE
WRKST	WRKST (V81)	WRKST (V206)	WRKST
WRKHRS	WRKHRS (V82)	WRKHRS (V213)	WRKHRS

ISCO88	ISCO88 (V84 – Australia only)	ISCO88 (V208)	ISCO88
WRKSUP	WRKSUP (V92)	WRKSUP (V214)	WRKSUP
WRKTYPE	WRKTYPE (V89)	WRKTYPE (V210)	WRKTYPE
SELFEMP	SELFEMP (V90)	SELFEMP (V211)	
NEMPLOY	NEMPLOY (V91)	NEMPLOY (V212)	NEMPLOY
UNION	UNION (V95)	UNION (V220)	UNION
SPWRKST	SPWRKST (V112)	SPWRKST (V207)	SPWRKST
SPISCO88	SPISCO88 (V114)	SPISCO88 (V209)	SPISCO88
HOMPOP	HOMPOP (V116)	HOMPOP (V252)	HOMPOP
HHCYCLE	HHCYCLE (V154)	HHCYCLE (V253)	HHCYCLE
PARTY_LR	PARTY_LR (V100)	PARTY_LR (V221)	PARTY_LR
VOTE_LE	VOTE_LE (V104)		VOTE_LE
ATTEND	ATTEND (V107)	ATTEND (V218)	ATTEND
ATTD_EXT	ATTD_EXT (V65)		ATTD_EXT
RELIGGRP	RELIGGRP (V106)	RELIGGRP (V217)	RELIGGRP
CLASS	CLASS (V108)	CLASS (V219)	
AT_REG	AT_REG (V121)	AT_REG (V285)	AT_REG
AU_REG	AU_REG (V121)	AU_REG (V286)	AU_REG
CH_REG		CH_REG (V289)	CH_REG
CL_REG		CL_REG (V308)	CL_REG
CY_REG		CY_REG (V290)	CY_REG
CZ_REG		CZ_REG (V291)	CZ_REG
DE_REG	DE_REG (V121)	DE_REG (V292)	DE_REG
DK_REG		DK_REG (V293)	DK_REG

ES_REG		ES_REG (V294)	ES_REG
FR_REG		FR_REG (V295)	FR_REG
GB_REG	GB_REG (V121)		GB_REG
HU_REG	HU_REG (V121)	HU_REG (V297)	HU_REG
IE_REG	IE_REG (V121)		IE_REG
IL_REG		IL_REG (V299)	IE_REG
IT_REG	IT_REG (V121)	IT_REG (V298)	IT_REG
JP_REG		JP_REG (V301)	JP_REG
LV_REG		LV_REG (V302)	LV_REG
NL_REG	NL_REG (V121)	NL_REG (V304)	NL_REG
NO_REG	NO_REG (V121)	NO_REG (V303)	NO_REG
NZ_REG	NZ_REG (V121)	NZ_REG (V305)	NZ_REG
PH_REG	PH_REG (V121)	PH_REG (V309)	PH_REG
PL_REG	PL_REG (V121)	PL_REG (V307)	PL_REG
PT_REG		PT_REG (V306)	PT_REG
RU_REG	RU_REG (V121)	RU_REG (V310)	RU_REG
SE_REG		SE_REG (V311)	SE_REG
SI_REG	SI_REG (V121)	SI_REG (V313)	SI_REG
SK_REG		SK_REG (V312)	SK_REG
US_REG	US_REG (V121)	US_REG (V314)	US_REG
WEIGHT	WEIGHT (V131)	WEIGHT (V316)	WEIGHT