1996 Czech Pre-Election Survey (April 1996)
- English -
STEM - Centre for Empirical Research

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TRENDS 4 - 96

ENGLISH Wording of Questions

April 1996
The English wording of the questions commissioned by the CEU for inclusion in the April 1996 (Trendy-4) pre-election survey

Variable: V4: Household finances in last 12 months
Compared to 12 months ago, do you think that the financial situation of your household has ...
  1. got a lot better
  2. got a little better
  3. stayed the same
  4. got a little worse
  5. got a lot worse?

Variable: V5 Household finances in next 12 months
And over the next 12 months, do you think that the financial situation of your household will ...
  1. get a lot better
  2. get a little better
  3. stay the same
  4. get a little worse
  5. get a lot worse?

Variable: V6 National economy in last 12 months
Compared to 12 months ago, do you think that the general economic situation in the Czech Republic has ...
  1. got a lot better
  2. got a little better
  3. stayed the same
  4. got a little worse
  5. got a lot worse?

Variable: V7 National economy in next 12 months
And over the next 12 months, do you think that the general economic situation in the Czech Republic will ...
  1. get a lot better
  2. get a little better
  3. stay the same
  4. get a little worse
  5. get a lot worse?

Variable: V8 Participation in 1992 general election
Did you participate in the ... <last general election to the most important national legislative body>?
  1. yes
  2. no -> SKIP QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTE IN THIS ELECTION
  3. he/she was not eligible at that time -> SKIP QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTE IN THIS ELECTION

Variable: V9 National Council vote in 1992 election
Which party list did you vote for?

Variable: V10 Participation in 1990 general election
And what about the ... <one before the last general election to the most important national legislative body>. Did you participate in that election?
  1. yes
  2. no -> SKIP NEXT QUESTION
  3. he/she was not eligible at that time -> SKIP NEXT QUESTION

Variable: V11 House of People vote in 1990 election
Which party list did you vote for then?

Variable: V12 Would you go out to vote next week?
If there is a general election next weekend, would you ...
  1. surely go out to vote,
  2. presumably go out to vote,
  3. presumably not go out to vote, or
  4. surely not go out to vote?
Variable: V13  Current voting intention
(INSTRUCTION: asked from everybody, regardless of answer for the previous question:) (Still, if you happen to
go out to vote,) which party would you vote for?

Variables: V14-V22 How well [PARTY] expresses your views and interests?

Now I would like to ask you to tell me how much each of the following parties express or opposes your views and
interests. Please answer with the help of this card (SHOW CARD). If you think that a party express your views and
interests very well (to a great extent), then give a score of plus 3; if you think that the organization is strongly
(sharply, completely) opposed to your views and interests, then give a score of minus 3; if you think that the
organization express your views and interests in some respects, but it is opposed to them in some other important
respects, then give a score of 0 and so on. Let's start with PARTY A.

CARD:
+ ----+
¦  3   ¦  Expresses your views and interests very well (to a great extent)
+ ----¦
¦   2  ¦
+ ----¦
¦   1  ¦
+ ----¦
¦  0  ¦
+ ----¦
¦ -1  ¦
+ ----¦
¦ -2  ¦
+ ----¦
¦ -3  ¦ strongly opposes your views and interests
+ ----+

A. CSSD +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
B. DEU +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
C. KDU-CSL +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
D. KSCM +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
E. LB +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
F. ODA +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
G. ODS +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
H. SD-LSNS +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3
I. SPR-RSC +3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

V23
What is the most important problem of our country today?
INSTRUCTION TO THE INTERVIEWER: IF THE RESPONDENT MENTIONS SEVERAL PROBLEMS,
THEN ASK HIM/HER: Which of these do you think is the single most important problem of our country today?”
PLEASE WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER AS EXACTLY AS POSSIBLE. ‘DO NOT KNOW’ ANSWERS CAN
BE ACCEPTED ONLY AFTER INTENSIVE QUESTIONING.

V24
In your opinion, which political party has the best ideas to handle this problem?

V25
And what is the second most important problem facing our country today?

V26
In your opinion, which political party has the best ideas to handle this problem?

V27
And what is the third most important problem facing our country today?

V28
In your opinion, which political party has the best ideas to handle this problem?
Variable: V29  Satisfaction with democracy
On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the Czech Republic?
1. very satisfied
2. fairly satisfied
3. not very satisfied
4. not satisfied at all

Variables V30-V43
Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements (SHOW CARD):
1. Definitely agree
2. Rather agree
3. Rather disagree
4. Definitely disagree
1. It should be the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one.
2. It is harmful for the economy if the government tries to reduce income differences between rich and poor.
3. The present economic situation is very unfavourable to me and my family.
4. Giving the former state-owned companies in private property is going to help very much in solving the economic problems of our country.
5. Unprofitable factories and mines should be closed down immediately even if this leads to unemployment.
6. Politicians who do not believe in God should not perform public functions.
7. Nationalism is (always) harmful for the development of our country.
8. The way things are in ... (country) people like me and my family have a good chance of getting ahead in life.
9. Politicians should care more about rising crime and deteriorating moral than about individual freedom and human rights.
10. A woman should be allowed to have an abortion in the early weeks of pregnancy, if she decides so.
11. In case of a politician I prefer a strong (good) patriot to an expert.
12. The Church has (the churches have) too much influence in our country.
13. It would have been better if Czechoslovakia was not dissolved.
14. It would be better if former owners did not receive compensation.

Variable: V44  Left-Right self-placement
In political matters, people sometimes talk of left, centre left, centre right and right. On this scale (SHOW CARD) one means Left, and 7 means Right. Can you place your views on this scale? If yes, where?

Background Variables: V45-V57
Note: The polling organization was free to use its own conventions in collecting the data on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. They were, however, requested to collect data so as to allow deriving the following variables (with standardized categories, which also appear in the coding of the variables deposited with the data file):

V45 Year of birth
Two digit code showing the year (00=born in or before 1900)

V46 Sex
1. male 2. female

V47 Size of community
1. less then 2.000 inhabitants
2. 2.001-20.000 inhabitants
3. 20.001-50.000 inhabitants
4. 50.001-100.000 inhabitants
5. 100.001-1000.000 inhabitants
6. Prague

V48 Race
The data are derived from responses to the following question TO THE INTERVIEWER, which was printed at the end of the questionnaire: "What is your guess, is the respondent 1. Gypsy  or 2. not Gypsy or 3. you are not sure about it."
1. Gypsy
2. other
3. not sure, difficult to say
V49 Educational attainment
1. less than completed elementary
2. elementary completed
3. vocational schooling (category not used in Hungary)
4. secondary completed
5. college or university completed

V50 Current employment status
1. works full-time
2. works in part-time job or causal worker
3. unemployed
4. retired or disabled
5. housekeeper
6. full-time student

V51 Private vs. public sector
(i.e. what type of firm respondent works in, or worked the last time when he/she employed)
1. own (or family) business, farm or company
2. private firm, farm, shop, non-profit organization, etc. (only if code 1 does not apply, i.e. the respondent is or was an employee)
3. co-operative
4. public administration, law enforcement or army (ministries and other government agencies, local governments, courts, prisons, etc.; organizations entitled to represent the state in certain areas)
5. other publicly owned institution (including public health care, education and a number of branches where "public employees" may work outside the narrowly defined public administration)
6. state owned company
7. other

V52 Current or last occupation
1. manual worker in agriculture, fisherman, forestry worker (self-employed farmer and helping family member included)
2. professional
3. upper management or higher administration
4. middle management
5. other non-manual
6. (manual) supervisor
7. skilled manual worker
8. semi-skilled or unskilled manual worker

V53: Frequency of church attendance
(i.e. something like "How often do you attend church or go to religious services?")
1. More than once a week
2. Once a week
3. One to three times a week
4. Several times a year
5. Less often
6. Never

V54 Religion
Regardless of whether or not you were baptized, do you consider yourself belonging to a particular religion (church)? If yes, which one?
Open ended question, codes:
1. None
2. Roman or Greek Catholic
3. Calvinist (member of the Hungarian Reformed Church)
4. Protestant (Lutherans and Bohemian Brethren only)
5. Czechoslovak
6. Smaller Protestant churches and sects (e.g. Witness of Jehova, Baptist, Adventist)
7. Other
V55 Trade union membership
1. not member
2. member of a post-communist trade union
3. member of (one of the) anti-communist trade unions
4. member of a politically indifferent trade union

Note: all Czech trade unions were classified as “politically indifferent”.

V56 Former communist party membership (before November 1989 in the ex-CSFR)
1. yes
2. no

V57 Ethnicity (open question No. 46 in the Czech questionnaire, coded by the principle investigator)
1. Czech
2. Slovak
3. Gypsy
4. Moravian
5. Polish
6. German
7. Hungarian
8. other