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Study Materials

2012

German Longitudinal
Election Study



GLES 2009

Langfrist-Panel 2002-2005-2009

ZA5320, Version 2.0.0

Study Description

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ZA5320, Version 2.0.0

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GESIS-Study Materials

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The German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES) is a long-term project funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) which started with the 2009 federal election. GLES is the largest and most ambitious election study held so far in Germany.

GLES 2009 was directed by four principal investigators: Prof. Dr. Hans Rattinger (University of Mannheim), Prof. Dr. Sigrid Roßteutscher (University of Frankfurt), Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Schmitt-Beck (University of Mannheim) PD Dr. Bernhard Weßels (Social Science Research Center Berlin) in close cooperation with the German Society for Electoral Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wahlforschung), and GESIS.

The following documentation refers to the Long-term Panel 2002-2005-2009 (ZA5320) of GLES. The following will give you some general information about the dataset.

Bibliographic description of the dataset

Study No.	ZA5320
Title	Long-term Panel 2002-2005-2009 (GLES)
Current Version	2.0.0, 04/13/2012 (Pre-Release)
Doi	10.4232/1.11350
Citation	Rattinger, Hans; Roßteutscher, Sigrid; Schmitt-Beck, Rüdiger; Weßels, Bernhard; Falter, Jürgen; Gabriel, Oscar W.; Rudi, Tatjana (2012): Long-term Panel 2002-2005-2009 (GLES 2009). GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5320 Data file Version 2.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.11350.

Basic information

Funding Agency	German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft): Waves 2002 and 2009 Thyssen Foundation (Thyssen-Stiftung): Wave 2005
Data Collector	Wave 2002: INRA Germany, Mölln Wave 2005: SRU Baces, Bamberg Wave 2009: Infratest dimap, Berlin
Date of collection	Wave 2002: 08/12/2002-09/21/2002 (Pre-election) 10/01/2002-11/08/2002 (Post-election) Wave 2005: 08/04/2005-09/16/2005 (Pre-election) 09/19/2005-11/09/2005 (Post-election) Wave 2009: 08/06/2009-09/25/2009 (Pre-election) 10/02/2009-12/14/2009 (Post-election)
Content	The seventh component of GLES is a long-term panel study. This component comprises multiple panel surveys. In each election year, a new panel is initiated with the respective cross-section survey (GLES component 1) serving as the first wave and each panel covering two full electoral terms (i.e. three federal elections). This documentation is about the long-term panel 2002-2005-2009. A total of 3,263 interviews were realized in 2002, followed by 1,543 re-interviews in 2005 and 2009.

Methodology

Geographic Coverage	Germany (DE)
Universe	The population comprises all persons with German citizenship resident in the Federal Republic of Germany, who had a minimum age of 16 years and lived in private households at the time the survey was being conducted.
Selection Method	Disproportional stratified multistage random sampling based on the ADM-design. In East Germany two ADM-nets were used. As a result of this procedure, the East

	<p>German population is overrepresented in the sample. Target households were selected by random route. The target person in the household was determined by Kish-Selection-Grid.</p>
Mode of Data Collection	Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) in waves 2002 and 2009, Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) in wave 2005.
Field Work	All in all, the number of sampling points in East Germany was doubled. Interviews were conducted in 338 sampling points in the starting wave 2002. On average 10 interviews were confirmed per sampling point. 11 interviews were held on average per interviewer in 2002. 2009, the average number of interviews per interviewer was 3.
Response Rate	Of 3,263 cases in 2002 2,340 expressed their willingness to be re-interviewed, 902 participated in 2005, 641 in 2009. 47.31 percent of the cases were interviewed more than one time. Overall 18.63 percent took part in all three waves of the panel.
Weights	<p>The dataset comprises four types of weights. The “East-West weighting” (wei_ow) includes a special weight factor for the regions of Germany (East, including Berlin, and West). This design weight corrects for the disproportional sample size of these regions.</p> <p>The second weight is the “Transformation weighting” (wei_tran) because the design of the study was based on a household sample so that persons living in single households had a higher chance of being selected. The transformation weight enables us to transform the data into a personal sample. This weight is based on the reduced household size (people in a household who belong to the population).</p> <p>To ease working with both weights (east-west and transformation weight) at the same time, the “Combination Transformation and East-West weighting” (wei_trow) was created. First the dataset was weighted with the transformation weight, and in a second step, the east-west weight was calculated again.</p> <p>The “Sociodemographic and regional weights with (and without) transformation weight” create the third type of weights provided in the dataset. Those weights were calculated by iterative proportional fitting (IPF). The iteration process ends when the difference between the weighted marginal distribution and the aimed distribution becomes smaller than 0.0001. To prevent large weights, the weights were trimmed (after each iteration) so that no weight is more than 5 times larger than the average weight. The weights are constructed on the basis of gender, age (4 groups: 16 to 29, 30 to 45, 45 to 59 and 60 years and older), education (three groups: low, middle, high), BIK-regions (three groups) and East (incl. Berlin) / West German federal states. Missing cases are replaced with the mode.</p> <p>To correct for panel attrition, panel weights are provided (wei_w1, wei_w2, wei_w3). The weights were calculated using propensity score weighting and IPF. First, the probability of further participation was estimated for wave 2002 and 2005 with two logistic regressions. The inverse propensity score was used to calculate panel weights. They were further adjusted to sociodemographic characteristics by IPF, also used in calculating the “sociodemographic and regional weights.” The weights lie within a range of [0.13; 10.43] in wave 2005 and [0.04; 6.12] in wave 2009. 95% of the panel weights are smaller or equal 2.46 (2005) / 2.35 (2009). For wave 2002 no propensity score could be estimated because of the absence of mortality. Here the untrimmed IPF weights were used, following the method described before. Missing values are replaced with the mean propensity score. Interval truncation eliminates the possibility to calculate a propensity score for the following wave. Therefore, the last panel weight of the case is used.</p>

Data access

Usage regulations

Data and documents are released for academic research and teaching: access category A.

Anonymized data According to German privacy, only anonymized data can be made accessible for public download. Based on this, some variables had to be deleted from the publicly available dataset. As a matter of course that no information is lost: All variables can be used by interested researchers in a Safe Data Center (SDC) at GESIS (Cologne, Mannheim). Some variables are also available by signing a user contract. If you are interested in those variables please send an E-Mail to gles@gesis.org. An overview of those variables can be found on our homepage (www.gesis.org/gles).

Errata

The most recent errata list is provided by the GESIS Data Catalogue (www.gesis.org/dbk). There you can also find a list of all changes made between the different versions of the dataset.

Further Remarks

Systematic missing observations, due to panel attrition and regional or pre-/ post-election splits, are defined as “not applicable” (missing values) within the range of 100-103.

Some cases did not correspond in central demographic variables (gender, age, education) from former waves. 26 inconsistent cases were identified and marked by the binary variable “mutation”.

You can find more information about GLES at www.gesis.org/gles or www.gles.eu.

To get an overview of the use of our data, we kindly request users of GLES-data to inform us about publications that utilize those data. In case of limited access to your publication (e.g. conference papers), we would highly appreciate if you could send us an electronic (PDF file, gles@gesis.org) or a print copy of your publication (GESIS, GLES, Post Box 122155, 68072 Mannheim, Germany).

Please note:

As a public service to our friends all over the world, we provide English translations of GLES datasets, questionnaires, and related important documents. Due to specifics of the original documents in German and the fact that translations were not done by political scientists, the wording of established social and political science questions and constructs in these translations may occasionally deviate somewhat from the Standard English versions. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning the translations, do not hesitate to contact the principal investigators or their collaborators. For an overview of the whole research team please have a look at the GLES website <http://www.gles.eu/team.htm>. You can also send an e-mail to gles@gesis.org.