

European Values Study (EVS)

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection - as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

The European Values Study (EVS) is run by a series of bodies.

[The Council of Program Directors](#): These meet once a year to discuss the general outlines of the project and approve the final questionnaire and the survey methodology.

[The Executive Committee](#): This body runs the project on a day-to-day basis. It organizes workshops and conferences, plans further studies, and so on.

[The Theory Group](#) develops the questionnaire. They evaluate the existing questionnaire and propose improvements.

[The Methodology Group](#) ensures the quality of the project. They ensure equivalence, comparability, provide methodological advice, and so on.

[The EVS Foundation](#) is the highest legal authority. It is planning and promoting activities and offers assistance in fund raising. It is also appointing members of the Executive Committee.

The EVS is funded to a large degree through the universities and research institutes in participating countries, as these bear the costs of wages for the national teams. Moreover, a number of external sponsors have contributed. For a complete list of major sponsors for the last survey, [please click here](#).

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey.

The EVS was initiated by an informal group of academics in the 1970s under the name *the European Value Systems Study Group*. A number of interesting questions were raised, including but not limited to: Do Europeans share common values? Are they changing? Are Christian values still important? To answer these questions, a survey was planned and conducted in 1981 in ten European countries. Since then, new surveys have been conducted approximately every tenth year, and the EVS has become a highly important comparative survey.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

The EVS was conducted in 1981, 1990, 1999 and 2008. As such, it appears to be a decennial survey.

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The European Values Study is, as the name suggests, occupied with the values of Europeans. There are six main pillars or topics:

- [Life](#)
- [Family](#)
- [Work](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Society](#)

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used.

Nationally representative samples were used in the 1981. The sample size was set to 1,000 interviews in each country, with an additional quota sample of 200 young people aged 18-24.

In 1990, representative multi-stage random samples were drawn in some countries, quota samples in other countries. The target population was 18 years and older.

In 1999, nationally representative samples were used – however, the quality of the samples varies.

There was improvement in relation to the 2008 round. All countries employed a representative multi-stage random sample of the adult population of 18 years and older.

The data collection methods have been varied:

1981: Conducted by interviewing agencies in each country, coordinated by Gallup in London.

1990: Face-to-face interviews conducted by national field work agencies.

1999: Face-to-face interviews conducted by professional survey organizations in all countries except from Greece. Coordinated at Tilburg University.

2008: Face-to-face interviews by trained field workers who made at least three revisits in case of not reaching the respondent at the first visit. The National Program Directors were

responsible for the fieldwork in their country, which was then coordinated by EVS teams at Tilburg University, CEPS/Instead, and GESIS.

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

The data are freely available upon registration.

Questionnaires, English version

[1981-questionnaire](#)

[1990-questionnaire](#)

[1999-questionnaire](#)

[2008-questionnaire](#)

The countries included in the different rounds

[Round 1, 1981](#): 16 countries.

[Round 2, 1990](#): 29 countries.

[Round 3, 1999](#): 33 countries.

[Round 4, 2008](#): 47 countries/regions.

For an overview of all participating countries in all rounds, [click here](#).

Cumulative file of the various rounds

See the headline “Longitudinal Data File 1981-2008” at [GESIS Data Archive](#).

Please note that several variables have changed name and/or content between different rounds. [This document](#) gives an overview of what variables are comparable over time.

Publications based on data

The EVS supplies a very handy database of several hundreds of publications based on their data in the [EVS Repository](#).

Analytical summary

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is taken directly from the responsible organization's website.