Study Description: **Switzerland**

Study title: 1996 ISSP Module on "Role of Government", Switzerland (partial replication)

Fieldwork dates: Mai 12th – November 9th 1998

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Sample type: Random Sample of all German, French or Italian speaking people aged between 18 and 70 who were permanently living in Switzerland in the year 1998. The final sample was determined by a two-stage selection process. First, a random sample of 6700 households was drawn from the official telephone register. Second, the household structure was examined via telephone for each selected household and one member drawn at random by computer.

Fieldwork methods: Standardized computer aided telephone interview (CATI) and standardized postal self-completion follow-up questionnaire (reply paid, gift included: telephone card worth CHF 10.–). Reminding letter including another questionnaire after two weeks.

Fieldwork institute: LINK Institute, Luzern

Context of ISSP questionnaire:
The present dataset on "Role of Government" is part of an extensive survey that was carried out within the joint project "Future of Working Life" of the Department of Sociology and the Institute of Political Science of the University of Berne. The joint project is financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation. It is part of the Swiss Priority Programme (SPP) "Switzerland: Towards the Future".
The ISSP questions on "Role of Government" were part of the written questionnaire (except variables V33 to V35, which were part of the preceding telephone interview). They were placed in their original order before a number of questions on other subjects.
The ISSP standard background variables were mainly part of the telephone interview.
The dataset is not a full replication of the 1996 ISSP module. The variables V4 to V15, V60 to V62, V65 to V69, and NOTVOTE have been excluded from the survey.

Sample size: 2518

Response rates: 6700 A - Total issued
1895 B - Ineligible

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4805	C - Total eligible
2518	D - Total ISSP questionnaires received
2287	E - Total non-response
1780	F - Refusals
	1270 - main
	510 - self-completion
204	G - Non-contacted
303	H - Other non-response

Language: German, French, Italian

Weighted: Yes/No

Weighting procedure: Due to the two-stage selection process the probability of selection depends on the size of the household (number of members aged between 18 and 70). To take into account the relative selection probabilities, weighting can be applied (variable WEIGHT).

Known systematic properties:

- People living in a household without phone or only with a cellular phone are not covered by the sample.
- Relative selection probabilities due to household size (see above).

Known deviations from ISSP questionnaire:

- The term “government” has been translated into “Staat” most of the times (exception: V47 and V51). This seems to be more appropriate for the Swiss situation than the term “Regierung”, which was used a number of times in the ZUMA-translation for Germany.
- The terms “business” in V21 and “business and industry” in V34 have been translated into “Wirtschaft” and “Schweizer Wirtschaft” respectively, and not – as in the ZUMA-translation for Germany – into “Handel und Industrie”.
- Due to a mistake, the text in brackets in question V56 (“We mean all taxes ...”) has not been printed in the questionnaire.
- The variables VOTE_LR and CH_VOTE do not refer to the *last* elections. The respondents were asked which party they would vote for, if elections were held next weekend

National Population Characteristics: Switzerland

Total Population in 1998: 7.1 million

	Statistical Yearbook 1999 (December 31st 1997)
Gender:	
male	48.8 %
female	51.2 %
Age groups:	
0–9	11.8 %
10–19	11.5 %
20–29	13.1 %
30–39	16.8 %
40–49	14.4 %
50–59	12.4 %
60–69	9.1 %
70–79	6.8 %
80 or more	4.0 %

	Swiss Labor Force Survey (SAKE) 2. quarter 1998 (sample size: 16'200) ages 18 through 70 only
Educational degree:	
none, compulsory	18.1 %
secondary	61.9 %
tertiary	19.9 %
Years of schooling groups:	
none, still at school, compulsory completed	18.1 %
9.75	1.8 %
10	2.4 %
10.5	42.0 %
11.5	0.9 %
12	13.0 %
12.5	9.7 %
15	3.7 %
17.5	8.4 %
Employment status:	
employed	75.3 %
unemployed	2.8 %
not in labor force	21.9 %