

DESCRIPTION OF THE DATABASES USED IN THE BOOK

The **Eurobarometer (EB)** initially was the name of the harmonized opinion polls commissioned by the European Commission, conducted from the beginning of the 1970s in the member states of the European Community, with the aim of analysing social and political changes. Later, the surveys came to cover the member states of the European Union; they are conducted twice a year – in the spring and the autumn. From the 1990s, these surveys, known as “Standard Eurobarometer” surveys were complemented by polls that specifically targeted candidate countries (“Candidate Countries Eurobarometer”), and by surveys that analysed specific or special topics (“Special Eurobarometer”, “Flash Eurobarometer”). More information on these surveys is available on the internet at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm. The actual data for Standard and Special Eurobarometer surveys are accessible (upon registration) on the GESIS website at: <http://zocat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp>.

The **European Social Survey (ESS)** was launched with the support of the European Commission and aims to monitor the changing attitudes of 30 (mostly European) countries. There are three completed “rounds” of this survey (2002, 2004 and 2006). Each round contains certain permanent parts, as well as some that change. In 2002, the changing modules were the attitudes towards immigrants and refugees, and the position of individuals in social and non-governmental organizations (Citizenship, Involvement and Democracy); in 2004, the changing modules were on family and work, healthcare and economic ethics; and in 2006, there were changing modules on the timing of events in people’s personal careers, and on personal and social well-being. An analysis of the Hungarian data can be found in the series of papers entitled European Social Science Analyses, published by the Sociological and Political Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The data themselves are accessible on the research website, at: www.european-socialsurvey.org/.

The **European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS)** is an international research project led by the European Foundation (Eurofound). It has been conducted twice up until now (in 2003 and 2007). The data sets include the data not only of the 27 EU member states, but also of Turkey and, in the 2007 wave, of Croatia and Norway as well. The aim of the research is to analyse the quality of life in a broad sense, including employment, income, education, housing standards, health, the work–life balance, and satisfaction. The analyses based on these data can be viewed on Eurofound’s website: www.eurofound.europa.eu/. The data themselves (for the time being, of the 2003 wave only) are accessible electronically (upon registration), at: www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/eqlsTitles.asp.

The **International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)** is an international survey launched in 1985, which focuses on a different topic each year (though some themes reoccur at regular intervals). Topics surveyed have included the role of government, inequality, national identity and religion. At present, 45 countries are members of the ISSP. The Hungarian part of the survey has, for years, been conducted by TÁRKI, under the supervision of Péter Róbert. The data from the international survey can be found in the GESIS archive, and are accessible (after preliminary registration) at: <http://zocat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp>. The research website is located at: www.issp.org/.

The **World Values Survey (WVS)** grew out of the European Values Survey (EVS), which began in 1981 in the 10 member states of the European Community (although the two surveys are conducted by two different teams of researchers, and, although harmonized, the surveys are not based on the same sets of questions). Five waves of this research have been completed: 1981–84; 1989–93; 1994–99; 1999–2004; and 2005–08. The database containing the harmonized data from the first four waves of the EVS and the WVS can be downloaded free of charge (upon registration) from the research website: www.worldvaluessurvey.org/. The goal of the research is to monitor changes in the international and intercultural value systems. The comprehensive theory of value system changes has been elaborated by Ronald Inglehart on the basis of WVS data. He is also the chairman of the executive committee of WVS. In the waves completed so far, data from more than 80 countries have been collected. Hungary is the only country in the region to have participated in all the waves of the survey.