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**METHODOLOGICAL PAPER
ON TRUST DATA HARMONIZATION**

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Purpose and scope of the deliverable:

The objective of D1.2 Methodological Paper on Trust Data Harmonization is to discuss existing techniques and standards to harmonize data on trust. Since the data we use is originating from various sources, collected using different measures and indicators, harmonization is required before we can use this data in a comparative analysis. By collecting the existing measures of interpersonal and political trust and by analyzing them as well as the existing harmonization projects, we are able to expand the existing databases, by combining different types of datasets.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Project summary	3
Annotation of the Deliverable (D1.2).....	3
1 On measuring trust	4
1.1 Unresolved issues in the measurement of trust	5
2 A quantitative review of the trust literature	6
3 Data sources for measures of trust.....	15
3.1 European Values Study (EVS)	15
3.2 World Values Survey (WVS).....	15
3.3 Eurobarometer (EB)	16
3.4 European Social Survey (ESS).....	16
3.5 International Social Survey Program (ISSP).....	18
3.6 Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES).....	18
3.7 Other research programs	19
4 A catalogue of measures of trust	20
4.1 Measures of interpersonal trust	20
4.2 Measures of trust in other groups / countries	24
4.3 Measures of institutional trust	26
4.4 Other measures of trust.....	29
5 Harmonizing measures of trust.....	30
5.1 A proposal for harmonizing trust measures in TRUEDEM	31
ANNEXES.....	34
ANNEX 1: Measures of interpersonal trust	34
ANNEX 2: Measures of trust in other groups / countries	39
ANNEX 3: Measures of trust in specific contexts.....	41
ANNEX 4: Measures of trust with a gender perspective	55
ANNEX 5: Measures of institutional trust	56
References	64

Introduction

Project summary

TRUEDEM is a 3-year multinational research project funded by the Horizon program of the European Commission with several core objectives. TRUEDEM aims to design and implement a complex research effort to collect comprehensive evidence on the perceptions of trust and judgments of trustworthiness in a range of European states. The project will create a robust and comprehensive knowledge base on long-term dynamics and predictors of trust in political institutions of representative democracy (parties, executives, parliaments, judiciary etc.) in the EU. TRUEDEM will examine the role of new patterns of electoral behaviour, impact of socioeconomic transformations, the erosion of old and emergence of new political cleavages for the inclusiveness, representativity and legitimacy in European democracies, and political trust. TRUEDEM will identify strategies to address the demands and needs of citizens expressed via both electoral and non-electoral forms of political participation as means to enhance active engagement and inclusion and thus booster inclusive and responsive decision-making and governance in Europe. TRUEDEM will distinguish clusters of values that can hinder or foster pro-democratic values and attitudes and thus contribute to the barriers and opportunities to re-invigorating and enhancing representative democratic systems. Finally, TRUEDEM will develop a comprehensive and transparent toolbox of policy interventions including recommendations, toolkits and methodologies for enhancing trust in political institutions, boosting transparency inclusiveness of representative systems. TRUEDEM is coordinated in Austria with partners in Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Ukraine. The three-year program runs from January 2023 to December 2025.

Annotation of the Deliverable (D1.2)

This document is part of Work Package 1 “Quantitative indicators and long-term trends of political trust”, led by Claudiu Tufiş, UoB-RO (Romania). D1.2 “Methodological paper on trust data harmonization” builds on the first deliverable in WP1 ([D1.1. Literature review and research paper on measuring trust](#)) that provided an up-to-date survey of literature and a comprehensive overview of the existing approaches in the social sciences to measuring trust and trustworthiness, including interpersonal and institutional forms of trust (Norris, 2023). The current methodological paper continues this work and offers a detailed analysis of the existing measures of trust. After a brief review of the most important debatable issues in the measurement of trust, we present the quantitative review of the trust literature published between 1980 and 2023. We then identify various measures of trust and complete the catalogue of such measures of trust, listed in the annex. The final section of the report focuses on the issue of harmonizing the trust data and developed a harmonization scheme to be employed in the TRUEDEM project (in particular, electronic database D1.3. Long-term trends of political trust dynamics). In the annex, a catalogue of the measures of trust is presented, structured in 5 sections: measures of interpersonal trust (Annex 1), measures of trust in other groups / countries (Annex 2), measures of trust in specific contexts (Annex 3), measures of trust with a gender perspective (Annex 4), and measures of institutional trust (Annex 5).

1 On measuring trust

Social sciences have long studied the phenomenon of trust; our understanding of the issues surrounding this topic are structured alongside three main schools of thought: the *social psychology* perspective, which links trust to individual characteristics and personality predispositions, the *cultural sociology* perspective, which places socialization at the core of people's values, beliefs, and attitudes, and the *performance* perspective, which understands trust as the result of a rational calculation (Norris, 2023: 2-3).

While some scholars might favor one perspective over the others, at the end all scholars admit that the phenomenon of trust is too complex to have a simple explanation and that it is quite likely that all three perspectives need to be combined to enable our understanding how trust is created and shaped (see, for instance, Voicu and Tufiş, 2017). The individual-level characteristics cannot be eliminated from the study of trust, just as community-level and society-level characteristics need to be taken into account; it should be clear that any explanation of trust that does not include the behavior (if we are talking about interpersonal trust) or the performance (if we are talking about institutional trust) of the objects of trust will be incomplete.

Uslaner (2018) argues that trust could be understood as being of three types: *generalized (social) trust*, which is created through socialization and is rather stable over time, without being related to a specific object of trust or for a specific purpose; *particularistic trust*, which stems primarily from one's links to one's own group; and *political trust*, which is oriented towards specific institutions for specific purposes. It can be noted that the three types identified by Uslaner, types that can also be found among the various items measuring trust used in public opinion surveys, correspond to the three theoretical perspectives discussed in the previous paragraph.

The measurement of trust using public opinion surveys has a long history. The earliest case of a survey question measuring social trust, identified using the Roper Center's iPoll archive, was in a survey conducted in March 1942 in the United States by the Office of Public Opinion Research. It was survey #813, and the topic of the survey was *War*. In addition to the question on trust, the respondents were also asked about the US main enemy, about the country with the smartest military leaders, the country with the strongest navy or the possibility of a peace treaty with Hitler.

The Civic Culture study of 1959 is the first survey in the Roper Center's iPoll archive that uses a different question to measure social trust – the *Trusted-Careful* version – the same version that has been discussed by Rosenberg (1956), and the same version that is still in use in many public opinion survey projects in the 2020s.

Since this report does not seek to conduct a literature review on the different theoretical perspectives used in the study of trust, we will bypass this discussion and direct the reader to the first report written in Work Package 1, [Literature review and research paper on measuring trust](#) (Norris, 2023).

The focus in this report is, first, to discuss the most important issues related to the measurement of trust that are still being debated in the literature; then, to identify the measures of trust that have been used over the years and that are still in use; and to propose a way to combine these multiple and diverse measures of trust into a single dataset using data harmonization procedures.

1.1 Unresolved issues in the measurement of trust

Although we have been using public opinion surveys to measure interpersonal and institutional trust for more than 80 years, scholars are still discussing a significant number of issues related to trust measurement, without reaching a proper agreement. Since these are issues which later will influence our decisions on harmonizing trust data, we consider it important to briefly discuss them now and refer to scholars that are bringing significant contributions to these debates for more detailed discussions. The discourse and practice of trust measurement have five key topics that still under debate: the item number debate, the dimensions debate, the scale-length debate, the equivalence debate, and the measurement debate, more generally (for a more detailed discussion of these debates, see Bauer and Freitag, 2018).

The *item number debate* refers to the number of items that should be included in survey modules and batteries of items designed to measure trust. The multiple items supporters argue that trust is a complex phenomenon that cannot be accurately measured through a single item. This is the standard position in measurement theory as well: complex phenomena and latent dimensions should be measured with multiple items. Uslaner is among the few scholars who argue that measuring trust does not need many items in order to be properly measured. To some extent the debate is not an important one since, historically, trust is measured using either one item or very few items. There are only two batteries of items that use multiple questions to evaluate the level of trust. The first one uses three items (*Trust-Careful*, *Help-Look out*, and the *Watch yourself* versions). The second one uses the same question but asks it for six different groups of people. Both are presented in **Table 6.** and discussed in the corresponding section of the report.

The *scale debate* refers to the number of points that should define the scale that is used to measure trust. Scholars involved in this debate (Krosnick and Presser, 2010, Lundmark et al, 2015, Uslaner, 2012) have their own preferences for shorter or longer scales. In the end, however, most comparative surveys seem to err on the side of maintaining trends rather than be willing to replace one version of an item with a different one, that includes a modified scale and that would break the trend over time. The different scales that are used in the measures of trust have been catalogued, presented, and discussed in the fourth section of this report.

The *dimensionality debate* has to do with different forms of trust and regards the possibility that the items used to measure trust could be reduced to a smaller number of dimensions. Scholars have argued for different positions in this debate (Fisher et al, 2011, Hooghe, 2011, Newton and Zmerli, 2011), which is partly fueled by the fact that the number of dimensions being identified via a dimension reduction algorithm is dependent on the number of institutions included in analysis. Most studies discover institutional trust can be reduced to a dimension referring to trust in the central institutions of the political system, a dimension referring to trust in local administration institutions, a dimension referring to trust in civil society institutions (including sometimes mass media and labor unions), and a dimension referring to trust in supra-national institutions (see, for instance, Tufiş, 2012). While we do not directly address this issue in this report, because it is less a measurement issue and more a data analysis issue, when creating the catalogue of measures of trust, we have decided to include complete lists of institutions, whenever possible.

The *equivalence debate* focuses on the question of how the concept of trust and the scales that we use to measure trust are interpreted and understood by respondents belonging to different cultures or with different experiences. The assumption that everyone is reading the question in the same way, interprets it in the same way, and understands it in the same way is a strong assumption that cannot be taken for granted and has to be proven. Frequently this is done via multigroup

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), although it can also be proven via cognitive interviews or additional, open-ended questions (Davidov, 2009, Freitag and Bauer, 2013).

The *measurement debate* is concerned primarily with how trust measures should be developed in the future, especially with respect to the issue of unipolar versus bipolar scales: should the scales refer only to trust and its absence, or should they refer to trust at one end of the scale and to distrust at the other? (Hardin, 2002, Cook, Hardin, and Levi, 2005, Lewicki and Brinsfield, 2012).

We readdress these issues when discussing the measures of trust included in the catalogue and when developing the data harmonization approach. The report will continue with a presentation of a quantitative review of the literature on trust, which provided the background for reaching the most important comparative datasets on trust which we selected to identify the measures of trust to be harmonized.

2 A quantitative review of the trust literature

The first step in developing the catalogue of trust measures including identification of the relevant academic literature on trust. We approached this task in a systematic manner, focusing our search on articles published in academic journals indexed in two largest databases of academic papers: ClarivateAnalytics' Web of Science (WoS) database (<https://webofscience.com/>) and Elsevier's Scopus (Scopus) database (<https://www.scopus.com>). The two databases are also two of the most widely used in the world in terms of bibliographic research (Mongeon and Paul-Hus, 2016). The decision to use both datasets rather than one was justified by the fact that they have different journal coverage (Singh et al, 2021). Previous studies have indicated that both datasets have a number of biases and limitations, the most important being a higher coverage for natural sciences versus a lower coverage for social sciences, as well as a higher coverage for English-language journals (Mongeon and Paul-Hus, 2016).

While aware of these limitations, our goal in using WoS and Scopus was to identify the relevant literature on trust and the two databases work well for this purpose, with the most important journals being indexed in at least one, if not both, of the datasets. It should be, however, kept in mind that the coverage of social sciences publications is lower. Aksnes and Sivertsen (2019: 8) estimated, using the 2015 and 2016 data on Norwegian publications, that the two databases cover about 72% of the total Norwegian scientific publications output, with higher coverage for medicine (89%) and natural sciences (85%), and lower coverage for social sciences (about 48%) and humanities (27%). A significant part of the academic output in social sciences is, thus, invisible to these datasets, especially if it is published in languages other than English or if it is published in books rather than journals.

In order to identify articles relevant for the topic of trust, we used a similar query in both databases (see **Table 1.** below). As keywords, we have used the various forms of trust identified in the literature: generalised/generalized trust, interpersonal trust, social trust, political trust, and institutional trust. We used 1965 as starting point for the year of publication and left the end point open, the natural cut-off point being the date we conducted the searches, April 13, 2023. We have searched for these keywords in all fields available in the two databases, in an attempt to be as wide as possible with the search results.

Table 1. Queries used to identify articles on trust published since 1965.

Database	Query	Results
Web of Science	ALL=("social trust") OR ALL=("political trust") OR ALL=("institutional trust") OR ALL=("interpersonal trust") OR ALL=("generalized trust") OR ALL=("generalised trust")	7581 items
Scopus	(ALL("social trust") OR ALL ("political trust") OR ALL ("institutional trust") OR ALL ("interpersonal trust") OR ALL ("generalized trust") OR ALL ("generalised trust"))	48079 items

Source: Author's compilation from data collected from Scopus and Web of Science.

As the data in the last column in **Table 1.** show, this resulted in a very high number of items coming from Scopus. The reason for the large difference between the results obtained from the two databases is due to the fact that Scopus offers references as a search field, while WoS does not. By searching in all fields available by default, Scopus returned as relevant results not only articles that contained one of the keywords in the title, abstract, or keywords search fields, but also articles that did not contain the keywords in these search fields but that cited papers that contained one of our keywords in the title. To avoid such artificial inflation of the number of results, our recommendation is to search for the set of keywords only in those fields that are relevant for the search: the title, the abstract, and the keywords of the article.

Since we collected data from two different sources, with different formats and characteristics, our next step was to ensure comparability between the results extracted from WoS and Scopus (see Kumpulainen and Seppänen, 2022 for a similar approach). We did so by employing a number of data cleaning steps (Table 2).

Table 2. Data cleaning process.

Step	Data cleaning steps
1	Identify duplicate entries based on DOI or Title and keep only unique records into the dataset.
2	Verify the "document type" field and rename records that are defined as article and proceeding paper / early access / book chapter as articles.
3	Verify the "document type" field and delete records that are not defined as articles: biographical note, book, book chapter, book review, correction, editorial material, letter, meeting abstracts, notes, retracted publications, data papers, proceeding papers.
4	Delete from the dataset records without abstracts.
5	Delete from the dataset records that do not include the keyword "trust" in any of the three key search fields: title, abstract, and keywords.
6	Save final dataset, containing 19265 records.

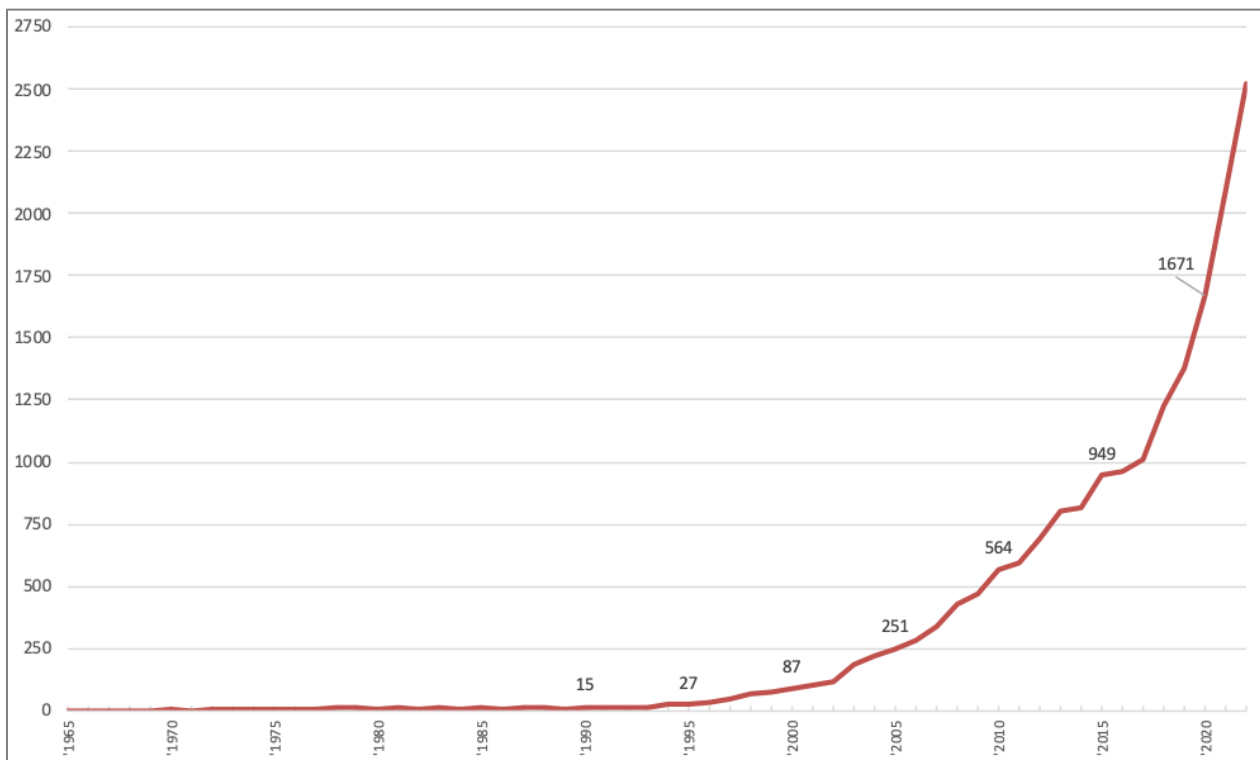
While steps 1 through 4 in **Table 2.** are standard steps in any data cleaning process, step 5 was necessary due to the artificial inflation of the number of results from Scopus described above. By the end of the data cleaning stage, we ended up with a dataset containing 19265 unique articles. The dataset includes the following variables: data source (WoS or Scopus), publication year (1965-2023), journal title, journal ISSN, journal volume, journal issue, publisher, article title, article pages

(available for 79% of articles), number of authors, authors' names, authors' Research ID or ORCID (available for 89%), keywords (available for 93%), abstract text, references (available for 33%), and citations (available for 90%).

Having access to a clean dataset of articles published on the topic of trust from 1965 to the present allowed us to move on to the next step of the analysis: an exploration of several characteristics of the trust literature. We offer in this report the first quantitative review, as far as we know, of the trust literature, with a focus on sociology and political science.

The chart in **Figure 1** shows the evolution of the number of articles on trust published in journals indexed in Scopus or Web of Science from 1965 to 2022. Given that we have included in the analysis only indexed journals, our data underestimate the real number of articles published on trust in the world in any given year. On the other hand, since both WoS and Scopus have strict criteria that journals need to fulfill in order to be indexed, it could be argued that the journals and the articles we have reached in our dataset represent the “best” (for the lack of a better word) part of the literature on trust. We can expect, thus, the evolution indicated by our data to represent the real evolution of the literature on trust.

Figure 1. Articles containing “trust” or “confidence” in the title, abstract, or keywords, indexed in Scopus or Web of Science, 1965 – 2022.



Source: Author's compilation from data collected from Scopus and Web of Science

According to our data, the number of published articles on trust has exploded in the last three decades: from 15 articles published in 1990 to 87 in 2000 (a 580% increase), to 564 in 2010 (a 648% increase), and to 1671 in 2020 (an additional 296% increase). Overall, the 1671 articles on trust published in 2020 are the equivalent of almost all articles of trust published between 1965 and 2006.

Of course, we cannot argue that this evolution was driven only by an increase of interest in the phenomenon of trust. We believe that this dramatic increase is actually driven by an increase in the number of articles being published every year, as well as an increase in the coverage of journals included in our two data sources. Even so, trust remains an important topic for researchers.

Our suspicion is partly confirmed by the data presented in **Table 3.**, which shows the 25 journals that have published the most articles on trust according to our dataset. As it can be seen, the top four journals that account for 4% of all articles on trust that have been published since 1965 are relatively new journals (all were founded between 2004 and 2010) that have a number of characteristics in common. The most important ones are that all these journals are asking authors to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC), they are publishing an impressive number of articles per year (Frontiers in Psychology publishes about 9000 articles in a year, the two MDPI journals publish about 15000 articles per year, while PLOS One published, on average, about 18000 articles per year since 2006), and they have a wide (in some cases to the point of non-existence) disciplinary focus.

Table 3. Academic journals publishing the highest number of articles on the topic of trust.

No.	Journal	Articles (N)	Articles (%)
1	Frontiers in Psychology (since 2010)	217	1.13%
2	Sustainability (since 2009)	210	1.09%
3	PLOS One (since 2006)	175	0.91%
4	International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (since 2004)	167	0.87%
5	Social Indicators Research (since 1974)	154	0.80%
6	Risk Analysis	126	0.65%
6	Social Science and Medicine	126	0.65%
8	Computers in Human Behavior	94	0.49%
8	Journal of Business Ethics	94	0.49%
10	Industrial Marketing Management	90	0.47%
11	Journal of Business Research	82	0.43%
12	Journal of Risk Research	77	0.40%
13	Journal of Trust Research	73	0.38%
14	Social Science Quarterly	67	0.35%
15	Political Studies	62	0.32%
15	IEEE Access	62	0.32%
17	Journal of Business and Industrial Marketing	57	0.30%
17	Political Behavior	57	0.30%
19	Personality and Individual Differences	55	0.29%
19	Political Psychology	55	0.29%
21	Current Psychology	54	0.28%
21	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	54	0.28%
23	BMC Public Health	52	0.27%
24	Frontiers in Public Health	52	0.27%
25	Social Science Research	47	0.24%

Source: Author's compilation from data collected from Scopus and Web of Science.

Social Indicators Research, a more “traditional” journal, since 1974 published about 154 articles on trust, 0,8% of the total number, is located in the fifth position on the list of journals. By comparison to the journals on the first four positions, Social Indicators Research publishes “only” about 350 articles per year.

Overall, the 19265 articles in our dataset have been published in a total of 4900 journals. The top 25 journals (those included in *Table 3.*) published 12% of the articles. The top 50 journals published 17% of the articles, and the top 100 journals (2% of the journals that published at least an article on trust since 1965) have published 24% of the total number of articles.

The titles of the journals that published the most articles on trust indicate that our dataset is not differentiating among various types of trust that have been studied, including not only articles that belong to the social sciences, but also articles that belong to the field of medical sciences, to business and administration, or to engineering. Thus, our next stage in the analysis was to identify a way to differentiate among the more than 19000 articles in the dataset and to identify those that deal with the types of trust that are of interest for the TRUEDEM project: interpersonal and institutional trust.

Table 4. Classification of trust articles based on abstracts using Structural Topic Modelling.

	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3
Highest probability	trust, political, public, government, institutions, citizens	trust, study, perceived, knowledge, research, risk	social, trust, capital, study, community, results
Frequent & Exclusive	voters, democracies, election, electoral, populist, ideological, partisan	consumers, brand, purchase, gm, foods, avs, tam	en, homicide, capital, swb, volunteering, water, wildlife
Score	political, citizens, democracy, government, democratic, corruption, electoral	consumers, brand, intention, customer, sharing, consumer, food	capital, social, inequality, residents, farmers, income, rural
Group	Institutional trust (political science)	Consumer trust (marketing)	Social capital and trust (sociology)
	Topic 4	Topic 5	Topic 6
Highest probability	trust, social, paper, can, information, model	health, trust, covid-19, study, patients, care	trust, study, relationship, research, interpersonal, organizational
Frequent & Exclusive	algorithm, recommender, nodes, iot, algorithms, filtering, malicious	patients, p, vaccine, 95, ci, patient, vaccination	supervisor, subordinates, lmx, supervisors, robot, principals, negotiators
Score	users, recommendation, user, nodes, recommender, network, algorithm	patients, health, vaccine, ci, 95, covid-19, p	team, organizational, employees, employee, teams, leadership, commitment
Group	“Tech” trust (IT mostly)	“Medical” trust (health sciences)	Intra-organizational trust (management)

Source: Author’s analysis of data collected from Scopus and Web of Science.

Since our dataset includes the abstract for every articles, we decided to use the information contained in the abstracts and other variables in the dataset for a topic modelling approach. Since there are multiple solutions available for a topic modelling approach, we decided to take advantage of the article meta-data as well and decided against a Latent Dirichlet Allocation model and in favor of Structural Topic Modelling using Quanteda (Benoit et al, 2018). A solution with six groups seemed to fit the data best and we selected it for presentation in **Table 4**. According to this model, the articles in our dataset can be grouped in six categories or clusters.

Two of these categories are of particular importance to our project: articles published on the topic of institutional trust, mostly from a political science perspective (Topic 1 in **Table 4**, see also **Figure** for a wordcloud of the most common words found in the abstracts of the articles included in this category), as well as articles published on the topic of interpersonal trust, mostly from a sociological perspective (Topic 3 in **Table 4**).

Figure 2. Most frequently used words in abstracts of articles (institutional trust cluster)



Source: Author’s analysis of data collected from Scopus and Web of Science.

The remaining four categories in **Table 4** belong to different disciplines and focus on forms of trust that are not of interest to our project: trust in various brands or products or, more generally, consumer trust, mostly analyzed from a marketing perspective; trust in supervisors, teams, subordinates, or, more generally, intra-organizational trust, mostly analyzed from a management perspective; technological trust, mostly analyzed from the perspective of IT; and medical trust, mostly analyzed from the perspective of health sciences.

As a last step in our quantitative review on the literature on trust, we decided to use the recently available tool, Chat GPT, as an instrument in our analysis, with the goal of automatizing the process of reading through the abstracts and coding a series of variables based on the information included in the abstracts.

We designed an exploratory approach to the use of Chat GPT to code information included in the abstracts. Using R, we wrote code that sent each abstract to the Chat GPT API, instructed Chat GPT via the prompt presented in **Box 1**. to read the abstract, code a number of variables based on the information available in the abstract and send back the coded variables as a JSON file to be aggregated in R to obtain the dataset with automatically coded data.

Box 1. Prompt used to instruct Chat GPT to automatically code abstract data into variables

You are acting as a political science researcher that conducts a literature review based on research paper abstracts. Read each abstract and extract information about the theory and the methodology used in the papers. Please follow these steps:

(1) Read the abstract.

(2) Identify information about:

- a) a string indicating what type of trust is analyzed in the paper, for example: social trust, interpersonal trust, institutional trust, or similar forms (79%)
- b) a string indicating if trust is used in the paper as a dependent variable, in which case you write 'DV', or as an independent variable, in which case you write 'IV' (86%)
- c) a string indicating the countries or regions in which the study was conducted, for example: Eastern Europe or Portugal, or similar (60%)
- d) a string indicating the time period being analyzed in the study, for example: a specific year or a range of years (25%)
- e) a string indicating the datasets used in analysis, for example: Eurobarometer or World Values Survey, or similar (28%)
- f) a string indicating the methods used in the paper, for example: surveys, experiments, interviews, focus groups, meta-analysis, or similar (84%)
- g) a string indicating the statistical models used in the paper, for example: regression analysis, cluster analysis, factor analysis, or similar (23%)
- h) a string indicating the number of cases included in analysis, as indicated by the sample size, 'N = ', or similar phrases (46%)

(3) Write your results in a JSON object with the structure described below.

(4) After you write your results, please make sure you did not miss any relevant information in the abstract.

You will output no other text aside from this JSON output. If the abstract does not include enough information, indicate this by writing 'NA'.

We are presenting here only information that we could verify using quantitative content analysis tools: datasets used in the published articles on the topic of trust (see **Figure 3.**) and the regional focus of articles published on the topic of trust (see In compiling the data presented in Figure 4 we considered the 11038 articles with relevant information in the abstract. Chat GPT extracted and saved geographical locations referenced in the abstract. If multiple countries were mentioned, we coded those as “World” if they were covering multiple continents, and as the name of the continent if they were all coming from the same continent. In addition, if localities or regions were

mentioned, we coded those using the name of the country. Thus, the regional focus of a paper could range from a single locality in a country (coded as that country) to multiple localities (in the same or different countries), to multiple countries on a single continent (coded as a comparative study of that continent's countries), and to multiple countries from multiple continents (coded as a global comparative study).

The analysis shows that the most studied country in terms of trust is China (12.9%), followed by the US (12.5%). Comparative global studies of trust also account for about 12.4% of the literature on trust. In terms of comparative regional analyses of trust, Europe is studied in 8.4% of the papers, followed by Asia (0.9%). Finally, at the national level, apart from China, the UK is the most studied country (3.2% of the papers), followed by Australia (2.1%) and South Korea (2.0%). Among the European countries, the most studied are Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Russia, and Turkey. Articles dedicated to other countries amount for less than 1%.

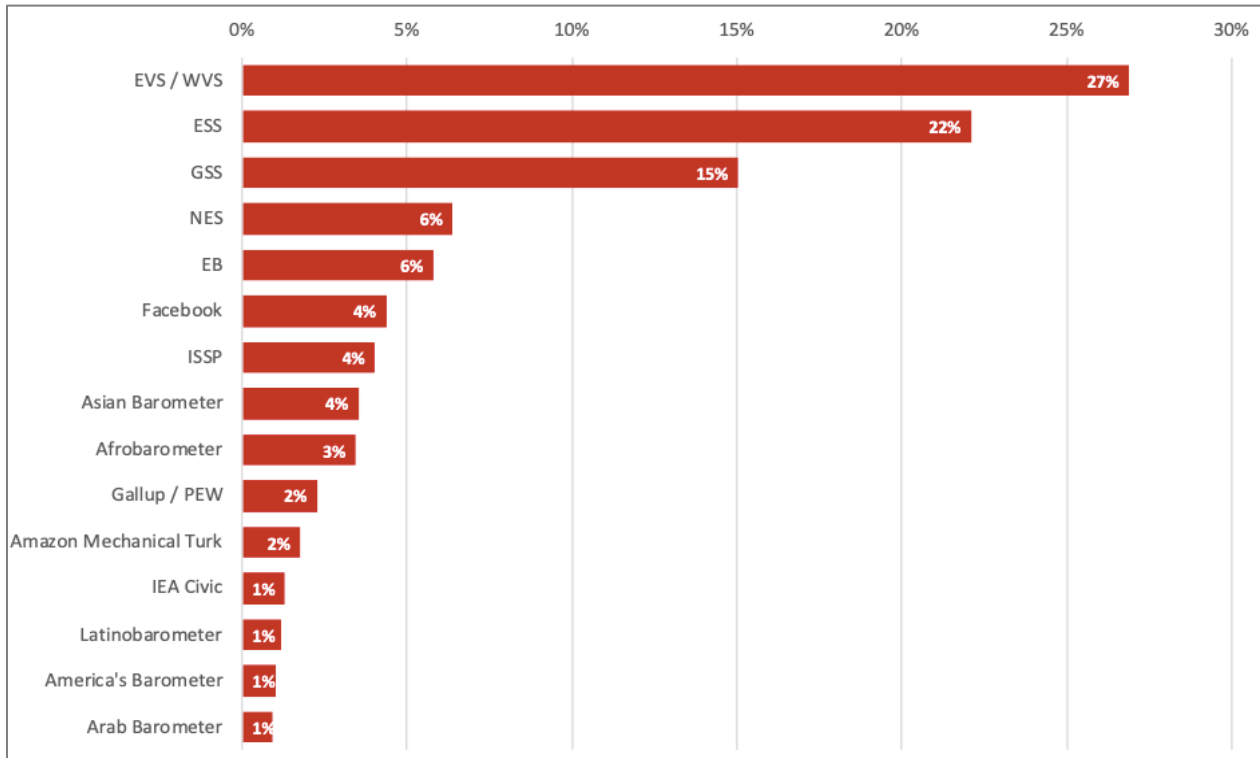
Figure 4.) For the other variables that have been coded by Chat GPT according to our prompt we are in the process of checking the quality of the automatic coding by comparing Chat GPT's work to the work of human coders (students) who are coding manually a sample of the abstracts already coded by Chat GPT.

Almost 30% of the articles in our dataset (5429, to be exact) included in the abstracts information on the datasets that were used in analysis. Out of these, 4239 (78%) reported various local or national datasets, while the remaining 1190 reported using a comparative international survey. The distribution of these 1190 articles according to the data they used is presented in Figure 3. This is of particularly importance for the next step in our analysis because we used this information to select the datasets and codebooks to be consulted in compiling the catalogue of measures of trust.

The data show that 27% of the articles using comparative international studies to analyze the topic of trust have employed the European Values Study (EVS)/ World Values Survey (WVS). The second most frequently used comparative international study was the European Social Survey (ESS), which was indicated as a data source in 22% of the articles. An additional 15% of the articles used the General Social Survey (GSS or a similar survey). Also widely used are National Election Studies (NES, about 6%), and the Eurobarometer (EB, about 6%). Other datasets that have been mentioned are used by up to 4% of the articles included in our data. We used the information obtained in this way to select which datasets and which codebooks we should consult in order to identify measures of trust. We will discuss this in detail in the next section of the paper.



Figure 3. Survey datasets most frequently used in the articles on trust.

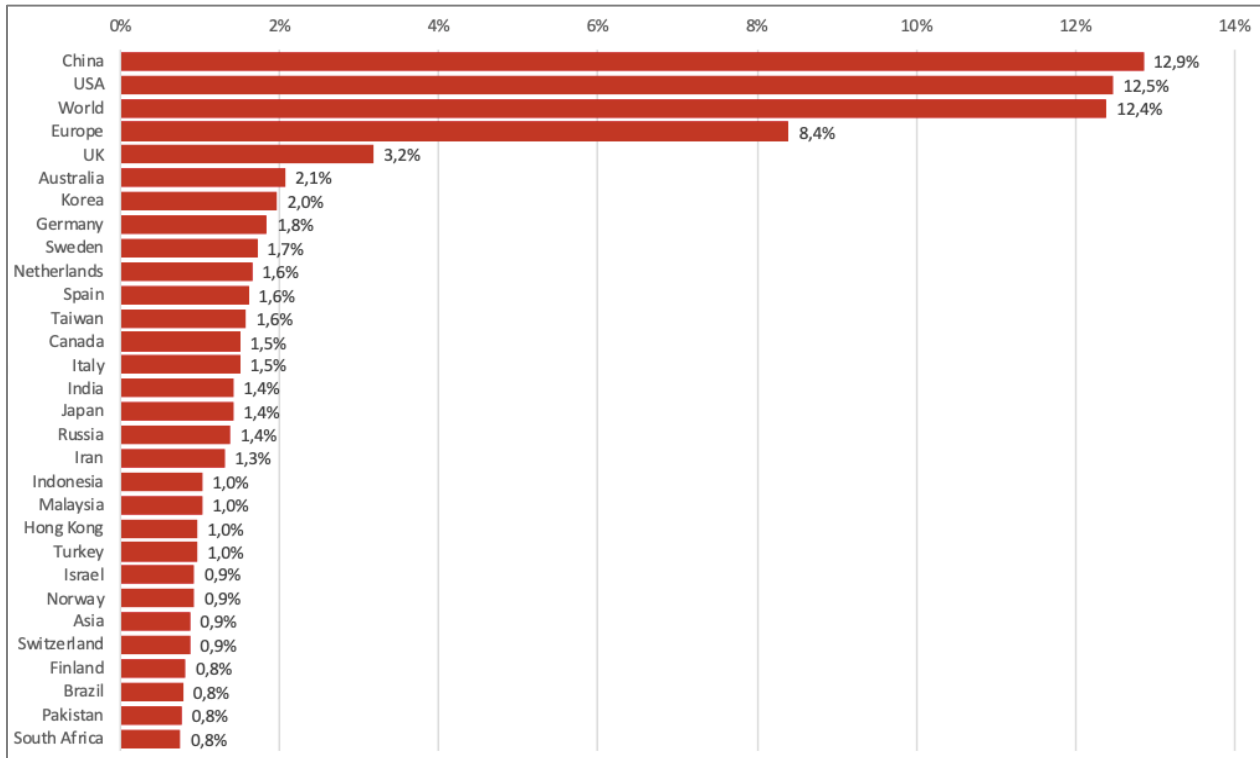


Source: Author's analysis of data collected from Scopus and Web of Science.

In compiling the data presented in Figure 4 we considered the 11038 articles with relevant information in the abstract. Chat GPT extracted and saved geographical locations referenced in the abstract. If multiple countries were mentioned, we coded those as “World” if they were covering multiple continents, and as the name of the continent if they were all coming from the same continent. In addition, if localities or regions were mentioned, we coded those using the name of the country. Thus, the regional focus of a paper could range from a single locality in a country (coded as that country) to multiple localities (in the same or different countries), to multiple countries on a single continent (coded as a comparative study of that continent's countries), and to multiple countries from multiple continents (coded as a global comparative study).

The analysis shows that the most studied country in terms of trust is China (12.9%), followed by the US (12.5%). Comparative global studies of trust also account for about 12.4% of the literature on trust. In terms of comparative regional analyses of trust, Europe is studied in 8.4% of the papers, followed by Asia (0.9%). Finally, at the national level, apart from China, the UK is the most studied country (3.2% of the papers), followed by Australia (2.1%) and South Korea (2.0%). Among the European countries, the most studied are Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Russia, and Turkey. Articles dedicated to other countries amount for less than 1%.

Figure 4. Regional focus of the articles on trust.



Source: Author's analysis of data collected from Scopus and Web of Science.

Just as a side note, once we will finish the human coding part of the project, we will be able to compare the results of the two approaches and estimate if Chat GPT, in its current shape (we used version 3.5 of Chat GPT and accessed it via the API offered by OpenAI), could be used for extracting information from semi-structured texts in order to build new datasets. For the type of information presented in the figures above, that can be easily verified, Chat GPT seems to work quite well. We will see if it works equally well to extract and summarize more complex information.

Overall, we estimated the traditional (human) coding of approximately 20000 abstracts, at 5 minutes per abstract, to require more than 10 person-months and to cost, at the current minimum wage in Romania, about 6000 euros. The costs associated with the automatic coding were of about five days in terms of computing time (this could be reduced by using multiple computers or multiple cores) and of about 120 euros in fees for using Chat GPT. Automatic coding was completed in 2.5% of the time required by human coding and at 2% of the cost.

3 Data sources for measures of trust

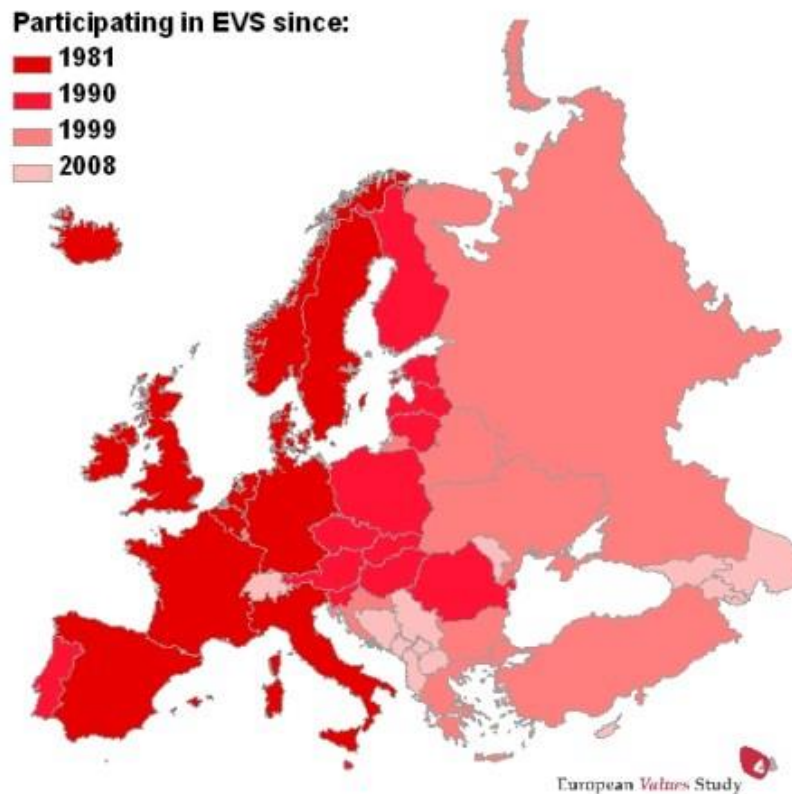
Using the information provided in the previous section, we have selected the comparative international surveys to be consulted in order to identify the different measures of trust that have been used over time. In this section, we briefly present each of the surveys we have consulted and then move on to presenting the catalogue of measures of trust in the next section.

3.1 European Values Study (EVS)

The European Values Study (EVS) is a large scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on basic human values that started in 1981, when interviews were conducted in ten

European countries. A second wave was conducted in 1990 and additional waves were conducted at nine-year intervals in 1999, 2008, and 2017. The sixth wave of the EVS is scheduled for 2026. The number of countries fielded varies from wave to wave, the 2008 wave recording the highest participation: 47 European countries / regions. More information about the European Values Study program is available at <https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

Figure 5. European Values Study country coverage.



Source: European Values Study webpage.

3.2 World Values Survey (WVS)

The World Values Survey (WVS) is an international research program that grew out of the EVS and was started in 1981 by its Founder and President, Ronald Inglehart. Currently, the WVS President is Christian Haerpfer, the Director of the TRUEDEM project. Every five years, the representative comparative social survey is conducted globally. Since then, WVS has been conducted in 120 countries around the world, covering almost 95% of the total world population. The most recent wave was conducted in 2017-2022 and the eighth wave of WVS is scheduled to start fieldwork in 2024. More information about the World Values Study Program is available at <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org>.

Figure 6. World Values Survey country coverage.



Source: World Values Survey webpage.

3.3 Eurobarometer (EB)

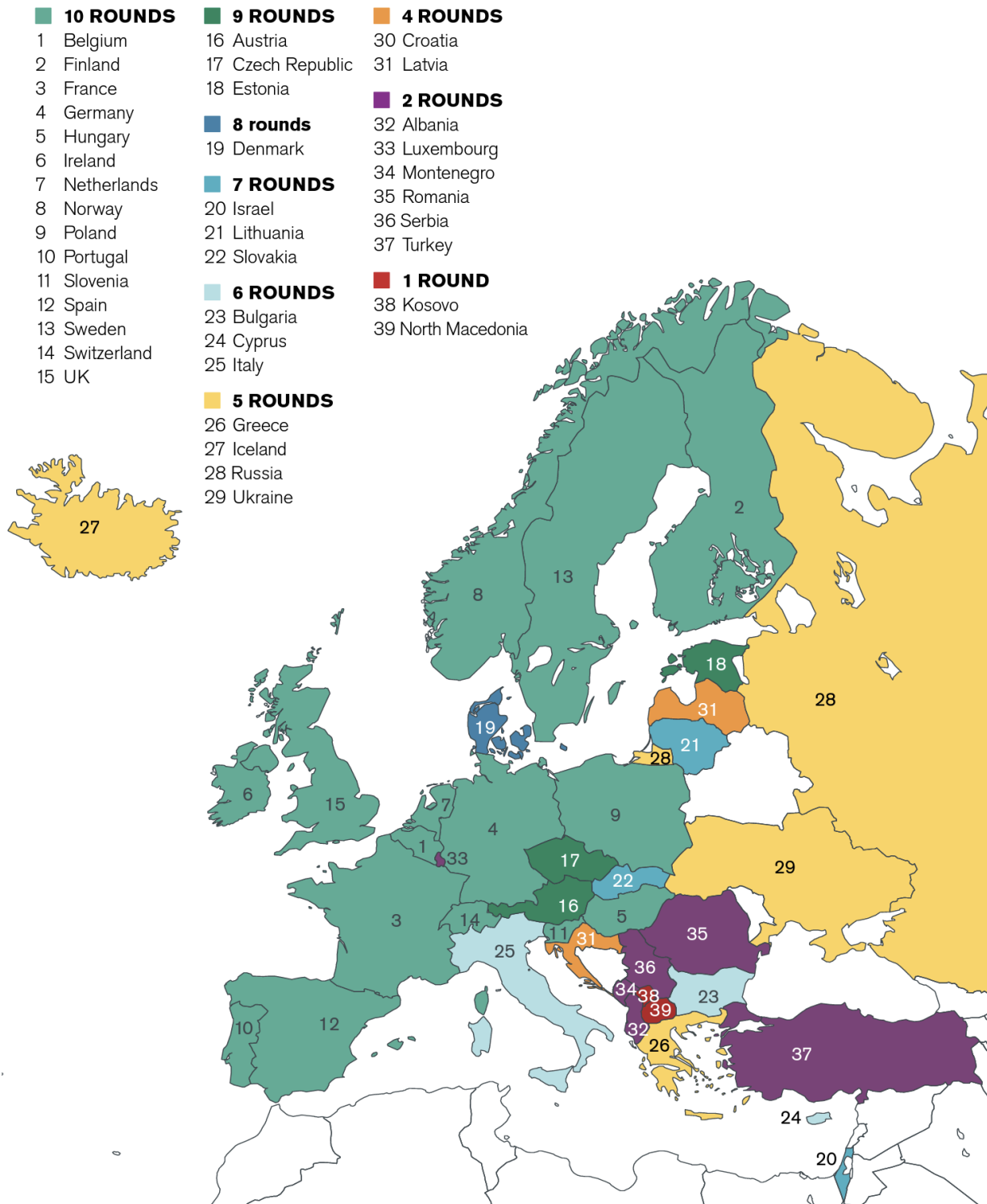
The Eurobarometer (EB) is the main instrument used by various European Union institutions and agencies to monitor public opinion across the EU member countries on issues related to the EU, focusing primarily on attitudes on social and political issues. The EB has been conducted in EU member countries since 1974 and consists of three different programs: the Standard Eurobarometer, the Special Eurobarometer, and the Flash Eurobarometer. Going back in time, we have included other programs that covered particular eras in the development of the EU: the Central and Eastern Eurobarometer (CEEB), and the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (CCEB). More information about the Eurobarometer is available at <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home>.

3.4 European Social Survey (ESS)

The European Social Survey (ESS) is a pan-European research infrastructure providing data to academics, policy makers, civil society, and the larger public. Its main data offering is the cross-national survey that has been conducted in European countries since the ESS was established in 2001. The first wave was conducted in 2002 and since then ESS is collecting data every other year. The latest data available is from wave 10, which was conducted in 2020. Currently, ESS is in the process of preparing the fieldwork for its twelfth round, which will be fielded in 2024. Over the years, 39 European countries have been included in at least one wave. More information about the European Social Survey program is available at <https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>.



Figure 7. European Social Survey country coverage.

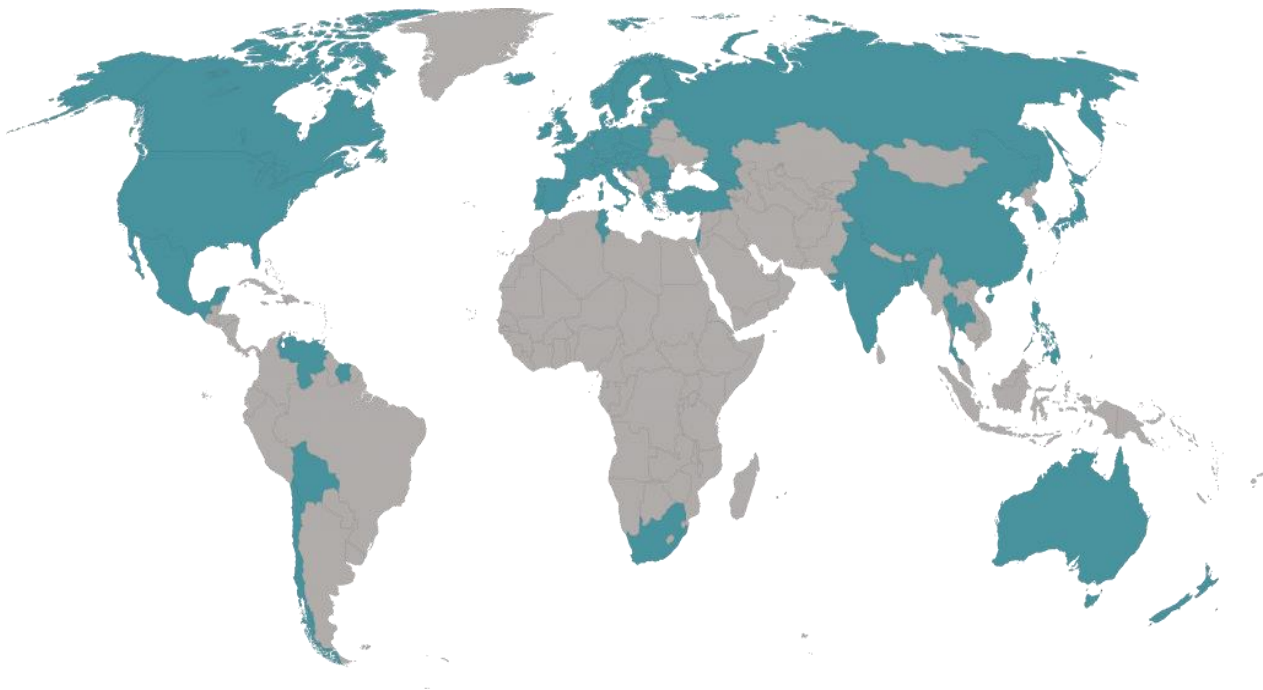


Source: European Social Survey webpage.

3.5 International Social Survey Program (ISSP)

The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) is a cross-national collaboration program conducting annual surveys on topics relevant to social sciences. The program started in 1984 with four founding members (Australia, Germany, Great Britain, and the USA). Membership in the program varies. Currently, ISSP includes 45 countries as members. ISSP differs from EVS/WVS/ESS in that it collects data every year but using smaller, thematic questionnaires that are repeated with various frequencies. The first survey was conducted in 1985, with questions on the Role of Government. The latest survey available is from 2020, with questions on the topic of Environment. The next survey to be fielded is the 2024 survey, with questions on Digital Societies. More information about the International Social Survey Program is available at <https://issp.org/>.

Figure 8. International Social Survey Program country coverage.

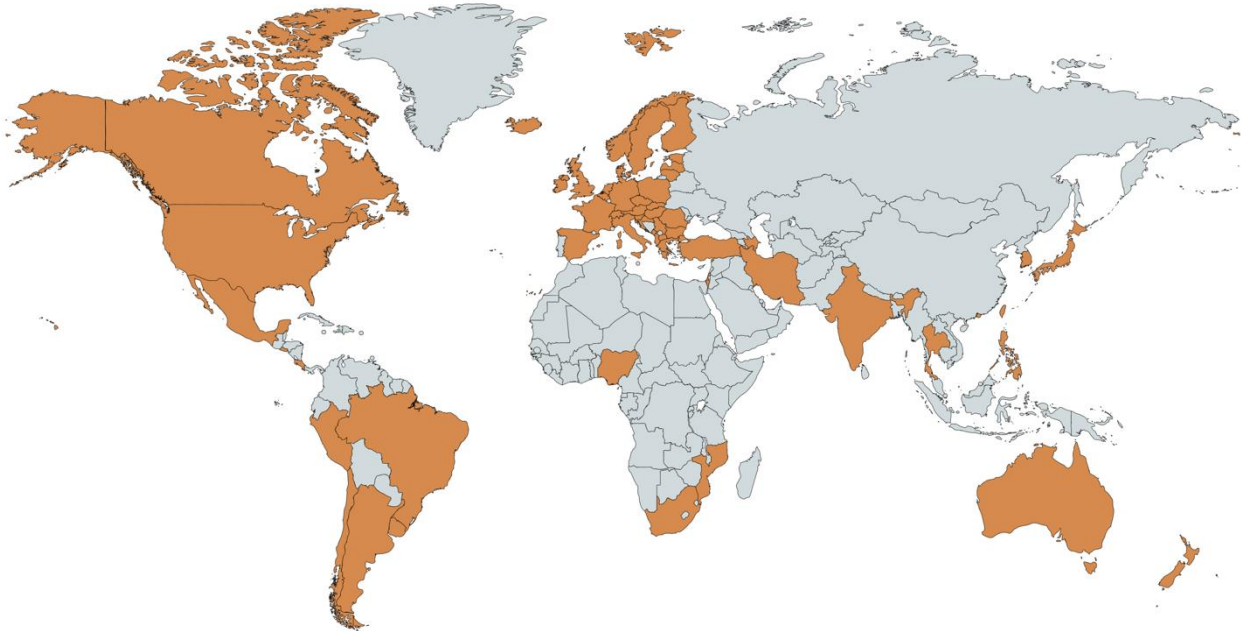


Source: International Social Survey Program webpage.

3.6 Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)

The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) is an international research program that focuses on behavior and attitudes during national elections, foremost voting and turnout. The surveys are designed in modules that cover five years. The first module covered elections from 1996 to 2001. The latest available module, the fifth, covers data collected around the 2016-2021 elections. Currently module 6 is in the field and module 7, which will cover elections from 2026 to 2031 is under development. More information about the Comparative Study of Electoral System is available at <https://ces.org/>.

Figure 9. Comparative Study of Electoral Systems country coverage.



Source: Comparative Study of Electoral Systems webpage.

3.7 Other research programs

In addition to the research programs mentioned above, we have also included the New Democracies Barometer surveys, conducted between 1991 and 1998 by a team led by Christian Haerpfer and Richard Rose, which focused on attitudes in former communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, as well as in former Soviet Union. More information about this program is available at https://www.cspp.strath.ac.uk/catalog4_0.html.

A second comparative program included in our analysis is the Voices of Central and Eastern Europe project, developed by GLOBSEC, a think-tank devoted to enhancing security, prosperity, and sustainability in Europe. More information about this program is available at <https://www.globsec.org/what-we-do/publications/voices-central-and-eastern-europe-perceptions-democracy-governance-10-eu>.

A third comparative program included in our analysis is the European Quality of Life Surveys (EQLS) program, launched in 2003, and repeated in 2007, 2012, and 2016 in EU member countries plus a number of additional countries. More information about this program is available at <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/surveys/european-quality-life-surveys-eqls>.

Finally, a fourth comparative survey, included mostly for historical reasons, is the Civic Culture project, which was conducted in 1959 by Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and the United States.

4 A catalogue of measures of trust

After identifying the relevant data, the final step in creating the catalogue of measures of trust, consisted of downloading the datasets, the codebooks, and identifying the measures of trust used in the comparative research programs presented in the previous sections of this report.

All datasets, questionnaires, and codebooks have been downloaded from GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (<https://www.gesis.org/en/home>), with the exception of the New Democracies Barometer, which we obtained from the UK Data Archive (<https://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>), and of the Civil Culture project, which we obtained from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/index.html>).

We have extracted from the information provided in the questionnaires and the codebooks all measures of trust that we could identify. We have grouped them in five categories, depending on the type of question:

1. Measures of interpersonal trust (complete list available in [Annex 1](#))
2. Measures of trust in other groups / countries (complete list available in [Annex 2](#))
3. Measures of trust in specific contexts (complete list available in [Annex 3](#))
4. Measures of trust with a gender perspective (complete list available in [Annex 4](#))
5. Measures of institutional trust (complete list available in [Annex 5](#))

The five annexes, together, represent the catalogue of measures of trust. For each measure of trust the catalogue offers information about the question text, the scale used to measure trust, the survey in which the question was included and the year in which it was asked.

For those who are not necessarily interested in the minor differences that could be observed from question to question in the catalogue, we summarized the relevant information and grouped it by question type rather than by survey and year, focusing on the three types of trust that are directly relevant for our project and that we are discussing next.

4.1 Measures of interpersonal trust

Table 6 presents a summary of the measures of interpersonal trust that we have identified in the datasets included in analysis. Overall, there are five different questions that are used to measure interpersonal trust. The question that is commonly used is the one we called the *Trusted-Careful version*. The question has been used for the first time in 1959, in the Civic Culture study, and since then has been continuously in use up to the present time. The text of the question is the same in all surveys, with minor variations: *Some people say that most people can be trusted. Others say you can't be too careful in your dealings with people. How do you feel about it?* The scale used to measure the responses has been modified multiple times, to the point where we identified seven different scales. The endpoints of the scales are the same (*Most people can be trusted* versus *You can't be too careful*), but the number of values on the scale varies: there is a 2-point version, a 3-point version, a 4-point version, a 5-point version, a 6-point version, a 10-point version, and an 11-point version.

Table 6. Measures of interpersonal trust.

Question text	Scales	Notes	Surveys	Years
<p>Some people say that most people can be trusted. Others say you can't be too careful in your dealings with people. How do you feel about it?</p> <p><i>(Version: Trusted – Careful)</i></p>	<p>1. Most people can be trusted 2. Can't be too careful</p>	<p>Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No</p>	<p>EVS WVS EB</p>	<p>1981 + 1981 + 1986 +</p>
	<p>1. Most people can be trusted 3. It depends 5. You can't be too careful</p>	<p>Scale: 3-point scale Middle point: Yes</p>	<p>Civic Culture</p>	<p>1959</p>
	<p>1. People can always be trusted 2. People can usually be trusted 3. You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people 4. You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people</p>	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No</p>	<p>ISSP</p>	<p>1998 +</p>
	<p>1. You can't be too careful ... 5. Most people can be trusted</p>	<p>Scale: 5-point scale Middle point: No</p>	<p>ISSP</p>	<p>2010, 2020</p>
	<p>0. You can't be too careful ... 5. Most people can be trusted</p>	<p>Scale: 6-point scale Middle point: No</p>	<p>ESS</p>	<p>2002</p>
	<p>1. You can't be too careful ... 10. Most people can be trusted</p>	<p>Scale: 10-point scale Middle point: No</p>	<p>EQLS EB</p>	<p>2003 + 2009 +</p>
	<p>0. You can't be too careful ... 10. Most people can be trusted</p>	<p>Scale: 11-point scale Middle point: Yes</p>	<p>ESS</p>	<p>2002 +</p>
	<p>Generally, would you say that most people are more inclined to help others, or more inclined to look out for themselves?</p>	<p>1. More inclined to help others 2. More inclined to look out for themselves 3. It depends</p>	<p>Scale: 3-point scale Middle point: Yes</p>	<p>Civic Culture</p>

Question text	Scales	Notes	Surveys	Years
<i>(Version: Help – Look out)</i>	0. People mostly look out for themselves ... 5. People mostly try to be helpful	Scale: 6-point scale Middle point: No	ESS	2002
	0. People mostly look out for themselves ... 10. People mostly try to be helpful	Scale: 11-point scale Middle point: Yes	ESS EVS	2004 + 2008
If you don't watch yourself, people will take advantage of you. Do you agree or disagree with that? <i>(Version: Watch yourself)</i>	1. Agree 5. Disagree	Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No	Civic Culture	1959
	1. Would take advantage 2. Would try to be fair	Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No	WVS	2000
	0. Most people would try to take advantage of me ... 5. Most people would try to be fair	Scale: 6-point scale Middle point: No	ESS	2002
	0. Most people would try to take advantage of me ... 10. Most people would try to be fair	Scale: 11-point scale Middle point: Yes	ESS EVS	2004 + 2008
I now want to ask you how much you trust the following groups of people: Using the responses on this card, could you tell me how much you trust ... <i>(Version: Trust groups)</i>	1. Trust completely 2. Trust somehow 3. Do not trust very much 4. Do not trust at all	Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your family • People in your neighborhood • People you know personally • People you meet for the first time • People of another religion • People of another nationality 	WVS EVS	2005 + 2018
	1. Trust them completely 2. Trust them a little 3. Neither trust them nor distrust them 4. Do not trust them very much	Scale: 5-point scale Middle point: Yes Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your family 	EVS WVS EVS	1990 1990 1999

Question text	Scales	Notes	Surveys	Years
	5. Do not trust them at all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [NATIONALITY] people in general • Various ethnic groups • Various racial groups 		
<p>To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There are only a few people I can trust completely.</p> <p><i>(Version: Generic Trust)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree, nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree 	<p>Scale: 5-point scale Middle point: Yes</p>	ISSP	2001, 2006
<p>In general, would you say that you trust other people almost always, often, only sometimes, rarely or almost never?</p> <p><i>(Version: Generic Trust)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almost always. 2. Often. 3. Only sometimes. 4. Rarely or almost never 	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No</p>	EB	2005 +
<p>To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your country and the world: In general, most people in my country can be trusted.</p> <p><i>(Version: Generic Trust)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Rather agree 3. Rather disagree 4. Strongly disagree 	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No</p>	Voices of Central Europe	2020

Source: Author's compilation from dataset codebooks.

The scales with an even number of points do not have a middle point, while the ones with an odd number of points do use a middle point. Only four of these scales are still used: the 2-point version is used by EVS, WVS, and the EB. The 4-point version is used only by the ISSP. The 10-point scale is used by the EB and the EQLS. Finally, the 11-point scale is used only by ESS.

In some surveys the *Trusted-Careful* version of the trust question is part of a battery of three items that measure interpersonal trust, a battery that includes the *Help-Look out* version and the *Watch yourself* version. The only survey that uses the three-item battery is the ESS, which uses the 11-point scale with a middle point for all three items in the set.

The second measure of interpersonal trust is the *Trust groups* version preferred by EVS and WVS. The text of the question is the same over the years: *I now want to ask you how much you trust the following groups of people: Using the responses on this card, could you tell me how much you trust ... ?* During the 1990s the question was used with a 5-point scale and the respondents were asked to indicate how much they trusted their family, the people in their country, as well as some specific ethnic or racial groups.

Starting with the 2000s the question was asked on a 4-point scale, without a middle point, and with the same groups being referenced, in an attempt to measure circles of trust (or trust towards in- and out-groups): your family, people in your neighborhood, people you know personally, people you meet for the first time, people of another religion, people of another nationality. This last form has become the standard form of this question.

Finally, sometimes a version of *Generic Trust* question is used. The text of the question varies from survey to survey, but it is usually a variation of this text: *In general, would you say that you trust other people almost always, often, only sometimes, rarely, or almost never?* The ISSP uses a 5-point scale for the responses, while the EB uses a 4-point scale, without a middle point. Both surveys, however, also use the more popular *Trusted-Careful* version of the question.

4.2 Measures of trust in other groups / countries

Table 7 presents the summary of measures of trust in other groups / countries. These measures are not very common, and they are used only by the Eurobarometer, indicating, probably the interest of the European Union in how citizens of various member countries are thinking about the citizens of other EU member countries. There are two versions used in the EB: the first one asks about countries that can be trusted, recording the countries that have been mentioned, while the second one asks about trust in various European nationalities, using either a 2-point or a 4-point scale, both versions without a middle point. The nationalities included on the list varied over time, reflecting the EU's changing interest in specific regions, but the list always included the nationalities of the EU member countries at the time the question was asked.

Table 7. Types of measures of trust in other groups / countries.

Question text	Scales	Notes	Surveys	Years
<p>Which countries of the European Community are, in your opinion, the most trustworthy / can be more trusted politically than others?</p> <p><i>(Version: Trust Countries)</i></p>	<p>0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned</p>	<p>Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No Groups: • Various European countries</p>	EB	1992 +
<p>Now I would like to ask you about how much trust you have in people from various countries. For each, please tell me whether you tend to trust them or tend not to trust them.</p> <p><i>(Version: Trust Nations)</i></p>	<p>1. Tend to trust them. 2. Tend not to trust them.</p>	<p>Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No Groups: • Various European nationalities</p>	EB	1997
	<p>1. A lot of trust. 2. Some trust. 3. Not very much trust. 4. No trust at all.</p>	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No Groups: • Various European nationalities</p>	EB CEEB	1970 + 1990
	<p>1. Very trustworthy 2. Fairly trustworthy 3. Not very trustworthy 4. Not at all trustworthy</p>	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No Groups: • Various European nationalities</p>	EB	1976 +

Source: Author's compilation from dataset codebooks.

4.3 Measures of institutional trust

Table 8 presents the summary of measures of institutional trust. There are two main versions that are used for measuring institutional trust: the *Trust in National Institutions* version and the *Trust in EU Institutions* version.

The *Trust in National Institutions* version has a single form for the question text: the respondents are presented with a list of institutions and are asked to indicate how much trust/confidence they have in each institution included on the list. The list varies from survey to survey and also varies within the same survey from wave to wave, but the structure of the list is generally the same, including both national and supra-national institutions covering not only political, but also economic, social, and cultural aspects. A complete list includes the following institutions:

National institutions:

- Churches
- Armed forces
- Press / television / newspapers
- Social media
- Police
- Courts / the legal system
- Universities / the education system
- Civil service
- Social security system
- Elections
- Government
- Political parties
- Parliament
- Major companies
- Banks
- Labor unions
- Green movements / Environmental organizations
/ Women's organizations / Charitable and
humanitarian organizations

Supra-national institutions:

- The European Union
- The United Nations
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- The World Bank
- The International Monetary Fund
- The International Criminal Court
- The World Health Organization
- The World Trade Organization

The scales used to measure trust in national institutions show the same level of variability as in the case of the Trust-Careful version of the interpersonal trust question: from 2-point scales to 11-point scales, including scales with and scales without a middle point. The choice of scale is associated with the survey: the Eurobarometer uses the 2-point scale, EVS and WVS prefer the 4-point scale, the ISSP uses either the 5-point or the 11-point scale, the ESS consistently uses the 11-point scale.

The *Trust in EU Institutions* version is less complex. Since it is used only by the Eurobarometer, the question has the same format over the years: *For each of the following European institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.* The answers are always recorded on a 2-point scale without a middle. The only component of the question that varied to some extent over time was the list of institutions. A complete list includes: the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the Council of Ministers of the EU, the European Ombudsman, the European Central Bank, the European Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions of the EU, the Social and Economic Committee of the EU, and the Convention on the Future of the EU.

Table 8. Types of measures of institutional trust.

Question text	Scales	Notes	Surveys	Years
<p>I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.</p> <p><i>(Version: Trust National Institutions)</i></p>	<p>1. Tend to trust. 2. Tend not to trust.</p>	<p>Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various institutions and organizations, both national and supra-national • Including political, economic, social, and cultural 	<p>EB CCEB</p>	<p>1997 + 2001 +</p>
	<p>1 A great deal 2 Quite a lot 3 Not very much 4 None at all</p>	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various institutions and organizations, both national and supra-national • Including political, economic, social, and cultural 	<p>EVS WVS</p>	<p>1981 + 1981 +</p>
	<p>1. Completely trust 2. Rather trust 3. Rather distrust 4. Completely distrust</p>	<p>Scale: 4-point scale Middle point: No Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various national institutions and organizations 	<p>Voices of Central Europe</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>1. Complete confidence 2. A great deal of confidence 3. Some confidence 4. Very little confidence 5. No confidence at all</p>	<p>Scale: 5-point scale Middle point: Yes Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various institutions and organizations, both national and supra-national • Including political, economic, social, and cultural 	<p>ISSP</p>	<p>1991 +</p>

Question text	Scales	Notes	Surveys	Years
	1. Do not trust at all ... 10. Trust completely	Scale: 10-point scale Middle point: No Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various institutions and organizations, both national and supra-national Including political, economic, social, and cultural 	EQLS	2007 +
	0. No trust at all ... 10. Complete trust	Scale: 11-point scale Middle point: Yes Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various institutions and organizations, both national and supra-national Including political, economic, social, and cultural 	ESS ISSP WVS + TrustGov	2002 + 2017 + 2020
For each of the following European institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. <i>(Version: Trust EU Institutions)</i>	1. Tend to trust. 2. Tend not to trust.	Scale: 2-point scale Middle point: No Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various institutions and organizations from the EU environment 	EB CCEB	1999 + 2000 +

Source: Author's compilation from dataset codebooks.

4.4 Other measures of trust

As previously mentioned, the catalogue of measures of trust includes two additional types which we have not discussed until now because they are not directly related to democracy and the political system: measures of trust in specific contexts and measures of trust with a gender perspective.

The measures of trust with a gender perspective have been briefly used in the Eurobarometer during the 1970s and the 1980s. Strictly speaking, by asking whether the respondent trusts more a man or a woman to perform a specific action (drive a train, deliver a baby as a doctor, defend the respondent in court as a lawyer etc.) these questions are mainly capturing the bias in gender attitudes and only secondarily they may be thought of as trust measures. Given this combination of trust and gender attitudes in a single question perhaps it is for good reason that the questions have not been used since the end of the 1980s.

The measures of trust in specific contexts, however, might deserve a closer look, especially if one considers that most scholars writing on how to measure trust have suggested a better specification of the context of the question as a possible way to improve on the existing measures of trust (see, for instance, Bauer, 2021, or Hetherington and Husser, 2012).

The Eurobarometer is the research project that experimented the most with trust questions that belong in the category of trust in specific contexts. The measures used in the EB include variants that deal with clearly defined contexts of particular interest for the EU at specific moments: trust in institutions to inform you about levels of radioactivity in the country (question asked in 1988, after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster), trust in the ability of Soviet Union / USA to deal responsibly with world problems (question asked in 1989, as the Iron Curtain was falling down), trust in national organizations that keep personal information about us to use the information in an acceptable way, trust in institutions to check how European Community decisions are carried through, trust in organizations to tell you about the safety of food products, trust in sources of information about health, trust in institutions to get the effects of globalization under control, trust in combating poverty, trust in information sources to give reliable information on COVID-19 vaccines.

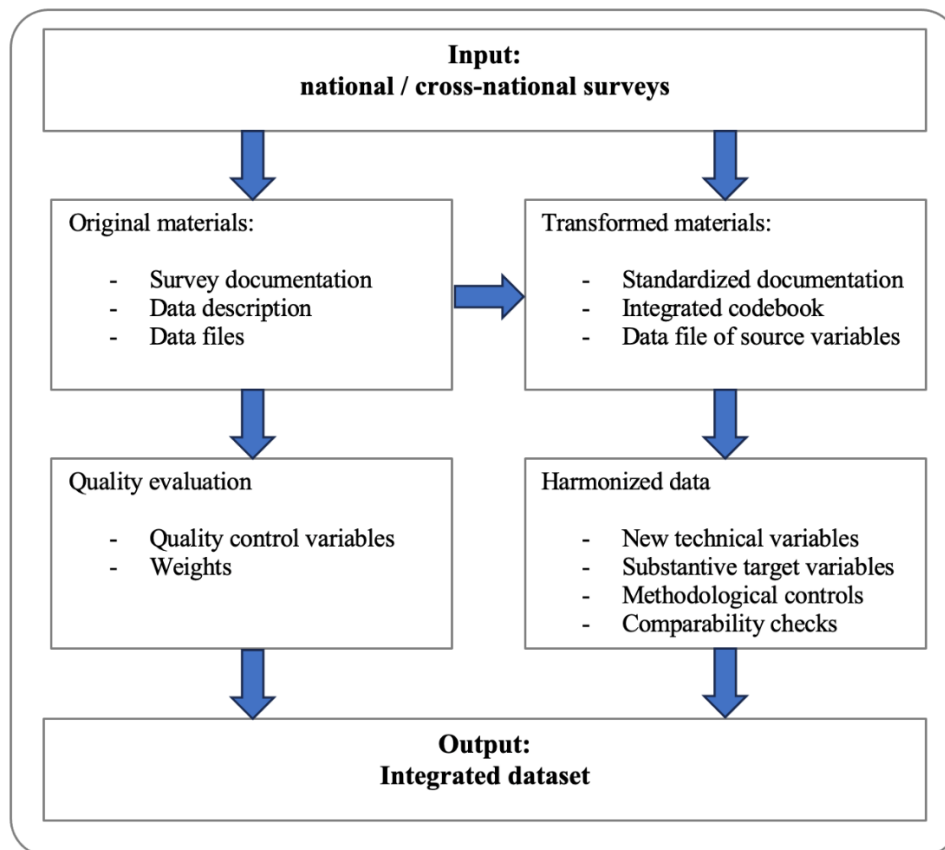
All these variants are available in Annex 3, and they can be used, if needed, when we will decide on what measures of trust to use in the survey that will be conducted by the TRUEDEM project as part of Work Package 8 “Empirical data collection”.

5 Harmonizing measures of trust

The main objective of this report is to discuss existing techniques and standards to harmonize data on trust. The findings presented in this report will be used as inputs in the preparation of the next deliverable in Work Package 1, the electronic database *DI.3. Long-term trends of political trust dynamics (1980-2022)*.

The entries in the catalogue of measures of trust have shown that, based on the various theoretical and methodological perspectives, existing survey research projects measure trust using different instruments. Of course, there is nothing wrong if researchers choose a specific way of measuring their studied concept. This liberty they enjoy in choosing the measure turns, however, into a significant problem for those researchers who are interested in using different measures of trust that are coming from multiple research projects. In this case, the diversity of employed empirical measures of trust attitudes transforms into a set of specific problems: ensuring that the question text is similar across measures and that the differences do not lead to different understandings of the question; ensuring that the different scales that have been used in different surveys are transformed in a way that makes the responses comparable; ensuring that the direction of the scales is the same across all measures; ensuring that the way non-responses have been treated in different surveys is not leading to erroneous decisions in the transformations of the original variables. In short, we need to solve these problems before the original variables can be used in the same analysis, and the solution to all these problems is the harmonization of the original variables.

Figure 10. Survey data recycling process.



Source: Author's adaptation based on Slomczynski and Tomescu-Dubrow (2019: 940).

Survey data harmonization includes procedure designed to increase the comparability of surveys over time, across different countries, or both. Granda and Blasczyk (2016) offer a detailed set of guidelines that should be followed during the data harmonization process, which we plan to use in the TRUEDEM project: (1) decide on the harmonization strategy; (2) decide which variables to harmonize and create a plan for data harmonization; (3) in the harmonization process focus on both the variable and the survey; (4) assess the quality of the harmonization process; (5) provide detailed data and documentation about the harmonization process.

Slomczynski and Tomescu-Dubrow (2019: 937) refer to this process as survey data recycling (SDR), defined as “an analytic framework for integrating information from extant survey and nonsurvey sources to create multicountry multiyear datasets that enable comparative cross-national research”. An example of a completed SDR project is offered by Slomczynski, Tomescu-Dubrow, and Jenkins (2016) in their project on democratic values and protest behavior.

The process is described in a schematic form in Figure 10 (see above). The national and cross-national surveys that will be used as inputs in the data harmonization process have already been collected. The current report presents, describes, and analyzes the original materials and is offering, in this section, a path to follow towards the creation of the integrated dataset of political trust. The work that follows, to compile the integrated dataset, will require completing the remaining three boxes in the scheme: transforming the data, quality evaluation checks, and harmonizing the data.

5.1 A proposal for harmonizing trust measures in TRUEDEM

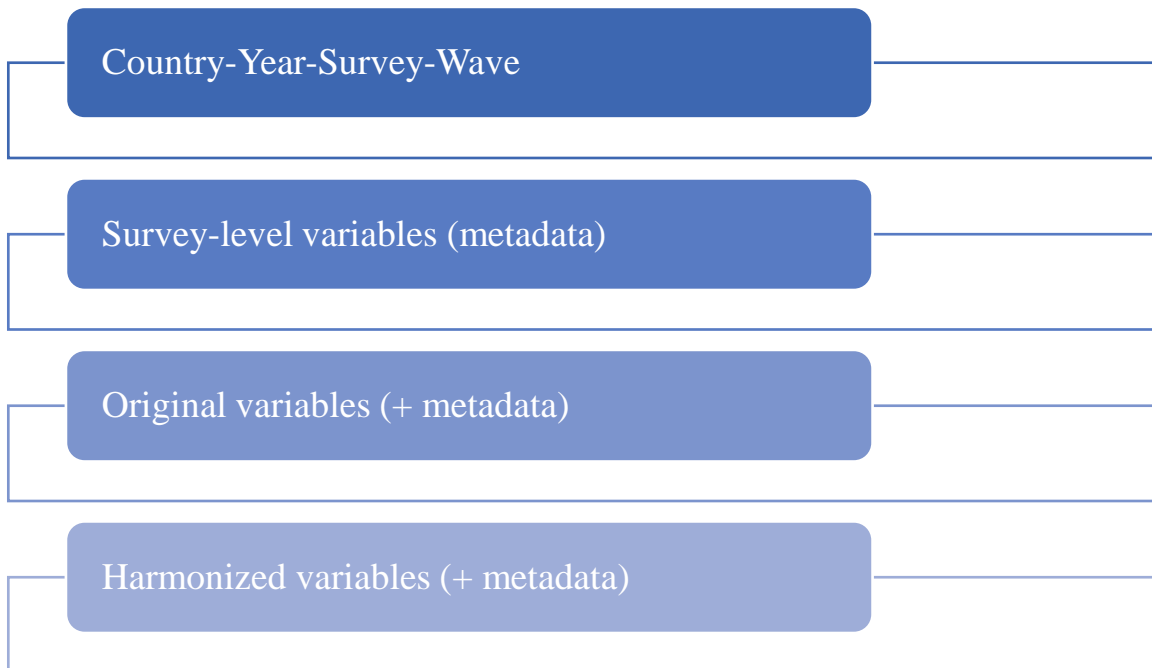
The strategy we propose for harmonizing trust measures in the TRUEDEM project is pre-determined to some extent by the characteristics of our project. For instance, since we are not collecting data but rather re-use already collected data on trust, we will implement ex-post data harmonization. It should be noted, however, that our original data come mostly from comparative research projects, which pay particular attention to measurement issues. As a result, we could think of trust measures as being nested within surveys: there is some variation within surveys from wave to wave, but this variation in measuring trust is significantly smaller than the variation that occurs across surveys. Following the advice of Fortier et al (2011), prior to beginning the harmonization process we will check data usage agreements to ensure that the original data can be used in harmonization processes.

The first version of the *Long-term trends of political trust dynamics (1980-2022)* database will be developed in 2023 and will include the original datasets presented above in the “Data sources for measures of trust” section. An updated version of the dataset, scheduled for production in 2024 will attempt to include trust measures from additional data sets, especially those collected at the national level within the countries involved in the TRUEDEM project. This version of the dataset will be updated until 2025 through the efforts of the people involved in the project. After the project ends, the dataset will be migrated on the website of the European Observatory of Political Trust (which is also a deliverable of our project) and will continue to be updated through the efforts of the user community developed around the observatory.

It should be noted that our harmonization process does not look to harmonize data at the individual level, because we are interested in country-level aggregate measures of trust, not in measurements of trust at the individual level. Our harmonized dataset will have, thus, a country-year-survey-wave format, with waves nested within surveys, surveys nested within years, and years nested within countries. Each row in our dataset will be a unique combination of country-year-survey-wave. Given that the original surveys’ country coverage varies, for some countries we will have multiple

waves of the same survey measured in the same year, while for others it is possible we will have no data available for a particular year.

Figure 1. Harmonized dataset structure.



Overall, the harmonized dataset will include five categories of information (see *Figure 1*): original survey-level variables, original variables (original items measuring trust), original item metadata, harmonized variables, and harmonized items metadata.

For each survey included in our harmonized dataset we will record a series of survey-level variables that will allow users of our data to have additional information about the measures of trust harmonized from the original surveys. The information required to code these survey-level variables is available in the original survey documentation (mostly in the codebook and in methodological reports). The survey-level variables we include are the following: fieldwork begin date, fieldwork end date, population, sample size, sampling frame, sample design, survey weights (see Zielinski, Powlako, & Kolczynska, 2019), data collection modes, and instrument construction and design.

For each original item measuring trust that we include in the harmonized dataset we will present the weighted relative distribution of the responses, including any non-response category (don't know, no answer, not applicable) recorded in the original dataset.

The harmonized dataset will also include original item metadata (see Kolczynska & Slomczynski, 2019): question text, scale text, scale type, direction of the scale, scale polarity, use of show cards.

We will offer two versions of harmonized variables, selected keeping in mind that we are building a dataset of aggregate measures of trust at the country level. The first version is harmonized on a 5-point scale with two positive values (completely trust and rather trust), one middle values (neither trust, nor don't trust), and two negative values (rather not trust, completely not trust). The second version is harmonized on a 3-point scale with one positive value (trust), one middle value (neither trust, nor don't trust), and one negative values (don't trust). The decision to select these scales for harmonization is coming from the fact that when the unit of analysis is the country (or the country-

year) most scholars tend to focus primarily on the proportion of the population that exhibits trust towards an object, eventually distinguishing between two levels of trust (strong versus weak). It is rather unusual to find in the literature data on trust aggregated at the country level being presented as a distribution on 10-point or an 11-point scale.

The last group of variables in the harmonized data set will be composed of metadata for the harmonized variables that are going to mirror the metadata recorded for the original trust measures.

The harmonization process will result in the following:

- Archive of original data, if allowed. If redistribution of data is not possible, we will provide links to the original data, indicating the version of the datasets we have used.
- Annotated syntax files used for importing the original data, harmonizing the variables, coding the metadata, and saving the harmonized dataset.
- Harmonized dataset structured as a country-year-survey-wave file. The file will be offered as a text (csv) file and also in some of the most common formats used in social sciences (Excel, SPSS, Stata, R).
- Codebook detailing the variables included in the harmonized dataset.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Measures of interpersonal trust

Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
Civic Culture	1959	Some people say that most people can be trusted. Others say you can't be too careful in your dealings with people. How do you feel about it?	1. Most people can be trusted 3. It depends 5. You can't be too careful
Civic Culture	1959	Generally, would you say that most people are more inclined to help others, or more inclined to look out for themselves?	1. More inclined to help others 2. More inclined to look out for themselves 3. It depends
Civic Culture	1959	If you don't watch yourself, people will take advantage of you. Do you agree or disagree with that?	1. Agree 5. Disagree
EVS	1981 +	Generally, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?	1. Most people can be trusted 2. Can't be too careful
WVS	1981 +	Generally, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?	1. Most people can be trusted 2. Can't be too careful
EB	1986 +	Generally, would you say that most people could be trusted, or that you could not be too careful in dealing with people?	1. Most could be trusted 2. You could not be too careful
EVS	1990	I now want to ask you how much you trust the following groups of people: Using the responses on this card, could you tell me how much you trust ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your family [NATIONALITY] people in general 	1. Trust them completely 2. Trust them a little 3. Neither trust them nor distrust them 4. Do not trust them very much 5. Do not trust them at all
WVS	1990	I now want to ask you how much you trust various groups of people: Using the responses on this card, could you tell me how much you trust... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your family 	1. Trust them completely 2. Trust them a little 3. Neither trust nor distrust 4. Do not trust them very much



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The [NATIONALITY] • Black Americans • Hispanic Americans • Canadians • Mexicans • Russians • Chinese 	5. Do not trust them at all
ISSP	1998 +	Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?	1. People can always be trusted 2. People can usually be trusted 3. You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people 4. You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people
EVS	1999	Using the responses on this card, could you tell me how much you trust [NATIONALITY] people in general?	1. Trust them completely 2. Trust them a little 3. Neither trust them nor distrust them 4. Do not trust them very much 5. Do not trust them at all
WVS	2000	Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair?	1. Would take advantage 2. Would try to be fair
ISSP	2001, 2006	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: There are only a few people I can trust completely	1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree, nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
ESS	2002 +	Using this card, generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means	0. You can't be too careful ... 10. Most people can be trusted



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.	
ESS	2002	Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 5, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 5 means that most people can be trusted.	0. You can't be too careful ... 5. Most people can be trusted
ESS	2002	Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?	0. Most people would try to take advantage of me ... 5. Most people would try to be fair
ESS	2002	Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?	0. People mostly look out for themselves ... 5. People mostly try to be helpful
ESS	2002	Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?	1. You can't be too careful 2. Most people can be trusted
EQLS	2003 +	Would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.	1. You can't be too careful ... 10. Most people can be trusted
ESS	2004 +	Using this card, do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?	0. Most people would try to take advantage of me ... 10. Most people would try to be fair
ESS	2004 +	Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?	0. People mostly look out for themselves ... 10. People mostly try to be helpful
WVS	2005 +	I would like to ask you how much you trust people from various groups. Could you tell me for each whether you trust people	1. Trust completely 2. Trust somehow 3. Do not trust very much

Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<p>from this group completely, somewhat, not very much or not at all?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your family • People in your neighborhood • People you know personally • People you meet for the first time • People of another religion • People of another nationality 	4. Do not trust at all
EB	2005 +	In general, would you say that you trust other people almost always, often, only sometimes, rarely or almost never?	<p>1. Almost always. 2. Often. 3. Only sometimes. 4. Rarely or almost never</p>
EVS	2008	Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair? How would you place your view on this scale?	<p>0. Most people would try to take advantage of me ... 10. Most people would try to be fair</p>
EVS	2008	Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?	<p>0. People mostly look out for themselves ... 10. People mostly try to be helpful</p>
EB	2009 +	General trust in people	<p>1. You can't be too careful ... 10. Most people can be trusted</p>
WVS	2010	Generally, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?	<p>1. Most people can be trusted 2. Need to be very careful</p>
ISSP	2010, 2020	Would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tick one box to	<p>1. You can't be too careful ... 5. Most people can be trusted</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		show what you think, where 1 means you can't be too careful and 5 means most people can be trusted.	
EVS	2018	<p>I would like to ask you how much you trust people from various groups. Could you tell me for each whether you trust people from this group completely, somewhat, not very much or not at all?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your family • People in your neighborhood • People you know personally • People you meet for the first time • People of another religion • People of another nationality 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trust completely 2. Trust somehow 3. Do not trust very much 4. Do not trust at all
Voices of Central Europe	2020	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your country and the world: In general, most people in my country can be trusted.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Rather agree 3. Rather disagree 4. Strongly disagree

ANNEX 2: Measures of trust in other groups / countries

Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
EB	1970	I will give you the names of different peoples: Will you tell me if you have a lot of trust in them, some trust, not so much trust, or no trust at all. Americans, British, Chinese, French, Germans, Italians, Russians, Swiss	1. A lot of trust 2. Some trust 3. Not so much trust 4. No trust
EB	1976 +	Now I would like to ask about how much you would trust people from different countries. For each country please say, whether in your opinion, they are in general very trustworthy, fairly trustworthy, not particularly trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy. American, Belgians, British, Bulgarians, Chinese, Czechoslovaks, Danish, Dutch, East Germans, French, Germans, Greek, Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Japanese, Luxemburgeois, Poles, Portuguese, Romanians, Russian, Spanish, Swiss, Turkish, West Germans, Yugoslavs	1. Very trustworthy 2. Fairly trustworthy 3. Not very trustworthy 4. Not at all trustworthy
CEEB	1990	Now I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in people from various countries. For each, please tell me whether you have a lot of trust in them, some trust, not very much trust, or no trust at all? Americans, Austrians, Belgians, Belorussians, British, Bulgarians, Czechs, Danes, Dutch, Finns, French, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Luxemburgers, Norwegians, Poles, Portuguese, Romanians, Russians, Slovaks, Spaniards, Swedes, Swiss, Turks, Ukrainians, Yugoslavians.	1. A lot of trust 2. Some trust 3. Not very much trust 4. No trust at all
EB	1990 +	Now I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in people from various countries. For each, please tell	1. A lot of trust. 2. Some trust.



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<p>me whether you have a lot of trust of them, some trust, not very much trust or no trust at all:</p> <p>Americans, Austrians, Belgians, British, Bulgarians, Chinese, Czechoslovaks, Czechs, Danish, Dutch, East Germans, Finns, French, Germans, Greek, Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Japanese, Luxembourgers, Poles, Portuguese, Romanians, Russians, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Turks, West Germans, Yugoslavs.</p>	<p>3. Not very much trust. 4. No trust at all.</p>
EB	1992 +	<p>Which countries of the European Community are, in your opinion, the most trustworthy?</p> <p>Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom.</p>	<p>0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned</p>
EB	1993 +	<p>Which, if any, European Community country or countries, do you think can be more trusted politically than others?</p> <p>Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, UK, None.</p>	<p>0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned</p>
EB	1997	<p>Now I would like to ask you about how much trust you have in people from various countries. For each, please tell me whether you tend to trust them or tend not to trust them.</p> <p>Americans, Austrians, Belgians, British, Czechs, Danes, Dutch, Finns, French, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Luxembourgers, Poles, Portuguese, Russians, Spaniards, Swedish.</p>	<p>1. Tend to trust them. 2. Tend not to trust them.</p>

ANNEX 3: Measures of trust in specific contexts

Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
Political Action	1973, 1980	How much do you trust the government to do what is right? Do you trust it just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just about always 2. Most of the time 3. Only some of the time 4. Almost never
EB	1985	How much do you trust the government to do what is right? Do you trust it just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. About always 2. Most of the time 3. Only some of the time 4. Almost never
EB	1988	<p>When it comes to getting information about the levels of radioactivity in our country, which institution or group of people, do you have the most confidence in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations concerned with the environment • The nuclear power industry • Journalists • Doctors • Consumer associations • Independent scientists • Local representatives • The national government • European community authorities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned
EB	1989	<p>I would like to read you some statements. For each statement. Would you please tell me how strongly you agree or disagree?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists can be trusted to make the right decisions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree. 2. Agree to some extent 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree to some extent 5. Strongly disagree.
EB	1989	How much confidence do you have in the ability of the [Soviet Union / USA] to deal responsibly with world problems? Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount, not very much or not at all?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great deal of confidence. 2. A fair amount of confidence 3. Not very much confidence 4. No confidence at all.



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
EB	1989	How much confidence do you have that decisions made by ... will be in the best interest of your country? Do you have ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATO • The European Community 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great deal of confidence. 2. A fair amount of confidence. 3. Not very much confidence. 4. No confidence at all.
WVS	1990	How much do you trust the government in [CAPITAL] to do what is right? Do you trust it almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almost always 2. Most of the time 3. Only some of the time 4. Almost never
EB	1991	I would like to know which of the following sources of information you have confidence in to tell you the truth about biotechnology and genetic engineering. Please select from this list the one source you would have most confidence in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer organizations • Environmental organizations • Animal welfare organizations • Political organizations • Trade Unions • Religious organizations • Public authorities • Industry • University 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned
NEB	1991 +	To what extent do you trust each of these political institutions to look after your interests? Please indicate on a scale with 1 for no trust at all and 7 great trust. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army • Civil Servants • Courts • Government • Members of Parliament • Police 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No trust ... 7. Great trust



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political parties • The President • The Prime Minister • Banks • Churches • Directors of big industrial enterprises • Newspapers • Private enterprise • Television • Trade unions 	
EB	1991 +	<p>I am going to read you a list of national organizations that may keep personal information about us. For each of them, please tell me whether you trust them or not to use this information in a way you think acceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical services • Banks and financial institutions • Employers • Police • Social Security / Tax authorities • Local authorities • Credit agencies • Mail order companies • Credit card companies • Insurance companies • Nonprofit organizations 	<p>1. Trust. 2. No trust.</p>
CCEB	1991, 1992	<p>How much trust you have in TV, radio and newspaper reporting of news and current affairs. For each category I read out please tell me how much trust you have in its news and current affairs coverage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [COUNTRY] TV • Western TV services 	<p>1. Very much 2. A fair amount 3. Not very much 4. Very little 5. Don't use</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [COUNTRY] radio • Western radio • [COUNTRY] newspapers 	
EB	1993	<p>Information about the European Community, its policies and its institutions can come from different sources. For each of the following, could you tell me whether you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it regarding information about the European Community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities • Regional authorities • National authorities • European Community institutions • The press • Radio • Television • Trade unions or professional associations • The Church • Businesses • Universities and schools 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tend to trust 2. Tend not to trust
EB	1993	<p>Which of the following do you trust or not to check how European Community decisions are carried through?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national government • The European Commission • The national parliament • The European Parliament • Citizens associations • The public • The European Community Council of Ministers • The European Court of Justice 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trust 2. No trust
ISSP	1993	<p>If you look at environmental labelling on products, how often do you trust it?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Always 2. Often



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
			3. Sometimes 4. Never 5. Never look at labelling
EB	1993	For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree strongly, you agree somewhat, you disagree somewhat, or you disagree strongly with it: The European Court of Justice can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for the Community as a whole.	1. Agree strongly. 2. Agree somewhat. 3. Undecided. 4. Disagree somewhat. 5. Disagree strongly.
ISSP	1996	How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Most government administrators (civil servants) can be trusted to do what is best for the country	1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
EB	1997	Many important decisions are made by the EU. Do you feel you can rely or not on each of the following institutions to make sure that the decisions taken by the EU are in the interest of people like yourself? Can you rely or not on ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission • Your country's government • The European Parliament • The national parliament • The Council of Ministers of the European Union. 	1. Can rely on it. 2. Cannot rely on it.
EB	1998	Did the following people or organizations tell you the whole truth, only part of the truth, or no truth at all about the safety of food products? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producers • Small grocery shops, corner shops • Stallholders in markets • Supermarkets, hypermarkets, large stores • Consumer organizations • Public bodies • European institutions 	1. The whole truth? 2. Only part of the truth. 3. No truth at all.



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
ISSP	1998	Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree: We trust too much in science and not enough in religious faith	1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree, nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
EB	1999, 2002	Amongst the following sources of information, which would you trust when it comes to environmental issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer associations • Environmental Protection organizations • Political parties claiming to be for the environment • Political parties in general • Trade unions • National or local government • Industry • Teachers at school or university • Scientists • The media • European Union • Companies • Family • Television • The radio • Newspapers 	0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned
EB	1999, 2002	I would like to ask you which of the following sources of information you trust to tell you the truth about modern biotechnology. Please choose the source of information you trust most from the following list. Please also indicate which other sources you trust to tell you the truth about modern biotechnology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer organizations • Environmental organizations 	0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal welfare organizations • The medical profession • Farmers' organizations • Religious organizations • National government bodies • International institutions • Particular industry • Universities • Political parties • Television and newspapers 	
ISSP	2000	<p>How much trust do you have in each of the following groups to give you correct information about causes of pollution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and industry • Environmental groups • Government departments • Newspapers • Radio or TV programs • University research centers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great deal of trust 2. Quite a lot of trust 3. Some trust 4. Not much trust 5. Hardly any trust
EB	2001	<p>Suppose there was a major disaster in your area. Who would you trust most to explain the reasons for the disaster? And the next most. And the third most.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists • Journalists • Consumer organizations • Environmental protection associations • Government representatives • Medical doctors • Companies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
EB	2001	<p>Which, if any, of the following would you trust to give information about the way your radioactive waste is managed in your country? And in the other European Union countries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National agencies dealing with radioactive waste • The national government • NGOs concerned about the environment • Independent scientists • The media • The European Union • The nuclear industry • International organizations working on peaceful uses of nuclear technology 	<p>0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned</p>
EB	2002	<p>For each of the following sources of information about health in general, please tell me if you trust it or not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer organizations • Environmental organizations • Animal welfare organizations • Political parties • Trade unions • Religious organizations • The government • Businesses • School and university • Medical health organizations • The media 	<p>1. Trust 2. Don't trust</p>
CCEB	2002	<p>Suppose there was a major disaster in your area. Who would you trust most to explain the reasons for the disaster? And the next most? And the third most?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies, Consumer organizations, • Environmental protection associations 	<p>1. Trust the most 2. Next most 3. Third most</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government representatives • Journalists • Medical doctors • Scientists 	
CCEB	2003	Who do you trust most to fight effectively in (COUNTRY) against the European Union and its budget being defrauded?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The police force 2. Customs services 3. The taxation authorities 4. The courts, the legal system 5. The European Union 6. The (NATIONALITY) Government 7. Local or regional Government 8. Other public bodies 9. Private auditing firms 10. The media
CCEB	2003	Generally speaking, do you tend to trust opinion polls, or not?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tend to trust 2. Tend to not trust
CCEB	2003	<p>And which of the following do you tend to trust most?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinions polls paid for by... • Opinions polls published/publicized by... 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (NATIONALITY) businesses 2. multinational businesses 3. TV stations 4. radio stations 5. daily press 6. other written press (magazines, etc.) 7. NGOs 8. trade unions 9. political parties 10. the (NATIONALITY) government 11. the European Union
CCEB	2003	<p>For each of the following statements, please tell me if you tend to agree or tend to disagree?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I trust using the telephone for banking transactions. • I trust using the Internet for banking transactions and payments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tend to agree 2. Tend to disagree



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
CCEB	2003	For each of the following, please tell me if it applies to you, or not? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I usually trust the advice given by financial institutions 	1. Applies 2. Does not apply
EQLS	2003	How much trust do you have in the ability of the following two systems to deliver when you need it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State pension system Social benefit system 	1. A great deal of trust 2. Some trust 3. Hardly any trust 4. No trust at all
ESS	2004	How much would you trust the following groups to deal honestly with people like you? Please use this card. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plumbers Builders Car mechanics and other repair-people Financial companies such as banks or insurers Public officials 	1. Distrust a lot 2. Distrust 3. Neither trust not distrust 4. Trust 5. Trust a lot
CCEB	2004	From the following list, who do you trust most to get the effects of globalization under control? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political parties The [NATIONALITY] government The EU Green / environmental / ecological groups Trade unions Consumer rights associations Multinational companies The WTO The UN The WB / IMF The US government Anti or alter globalization movements Non-governmental organizations Citizens themselves 	1. Mentioned 2. Did not mention



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
EB	2004	<p>From the following list, who do you trust most to get to the effects of globalization under control?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political parties • The national government • The European Union • Green, environmental or ecological groups • Trade unions • Consumer rights associations • Multinational companies • The World Trade Organization • The United Nations • The World Bank / The International Monetary Fund • The US government • Anti- or alter-globalization movements • NGOs • The citizens themselves 	<p>0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned</p>
EB	2004	<p>Who do you trust the most to inform you on the draft European Constitution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission • The European Parliament • The national government • The national political parties • The local councillors • The national religious or denominational organizations • Journalists • Trade unions • Consumer organizations • Your relatives, your friends. 	<p>0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned</p>
ISSP	2004 +	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	<p>1. Strongly agree 2. Agree</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the time we can trust people in government to do what is right 	3. Neither agree, nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
EB	2005	Suppose a serious food risk were found in fish or chicken. Who would you trust the most to inform you about this risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists • Public authorities • Food manufacturers • Media • Consumer groups • Your doctor • Supermarkets or shops • Farmers 	0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned
ISSP	2006 +	Please tick one box on each line to show how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most civil servants can be trusted to do what is best for the country. 	1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
EB	2006	Which four of the following categories of people and organizations would you trust most when it comes to information about biological and medical research? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums, exhibitions or festivals. • Researchers working at a university or government laboratory • Medical doctors or staff • Teachers • Colleagues, friends and members of your family • The government • International institutions • NGOs • Specialized journalists writing in science or health magazines 	0. Not mentioned 1. Mentioned



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV journalists • Other journalists 	
EB	2007	How much trust do you have in the official statistics in your country? For example, the statistics are unemployment, inflation or economic growth. Would you say that you tend to trust this official statistics or tend not to trust them?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tend to trust 2. Tend not to trust
EB	2007	Which two of the following would you trust the most to give you information about development aid and developing countries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs • Journalists • The national government • The developing countries governments • The European Commission • The United Nations • Friends and family. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First mention 2. Second mention
EB	2009	Which of the following would you trust in combating poverty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union • National government • Regional or local authorities • NGO's or charities • Religious institutions • Private companies • Citizens themselves 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. tend to trust it 2. tend not to trust it
ESS	2020	Using this card, please tell me to what extent you trust the national government in [COUNTRY] to deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Please answer on a score of 0-10 where 0 means you do not trust the government at all and 10 means you have complete trust.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. No trust at all ... 10. Complete trust
ISSP	2021	Did the way the Covid-19 pandemic was handled in [country] increase or decrease your confidence in ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health care system 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased a lot 2. Increased a little 3. Neither increased it, nor decreased it



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government 	4. Decreased it a little 5. Decreased it a lot
EB	2021	Among the following sources, which ones would you trust more to give you reliable information on COVID – 19 vaccines? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU The government The health authorities The regional or local authorities Health professionals Media Websites Online social networks People around you 	1. Trust 2. Do not trust
EB	2023	Thinking about the EU’s response to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you trust the EU or not to make the right decisions in the future?	1. Totally trust 2. Tend to trust 3. Tend not to trust 4. Do not trust at all

ANNEX 4: Measures of trust with a gender perspective

Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
EB	1975, 1977	In general, would you have more confidence in a man or a woman as your representative in Parliament?	1. More confidence in a man 2. No difference / Neither one nor the other (volunteered) 3. More confidence in a woman
EB	1983, 1987	Generally speaking, would you have more confidence in a man or a woman ...? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the driver of your bus or train • As the surgeon to operate on you • As a doctor delivering your baby • As a lawyer to defend you in court • As your member of parliament 	1. More confidence in a man 2. More confidence in a woman 3. Same



ANNEX 5: Measures of institutional trust

Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
WVS	1981 +	<p>For each organization, could you tell me how much confidence you have in them: is it a great deal of confidence, quite a lot of confidence, not very much confidence or none at all?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The churches • The armed forces • The press • Television • Labor unions • The police • The courts / the legal system • The government • Political parties • Parliament • The civil service • Universities • Elections • Major companies • Banks • Green / Ecology movement • Environmental organizations • Women’s organizations • Charitable and humanitarian organizations • The EU • The UN • The IMF 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great deal 2. Quite a lot 3. Not very much 4. None at all



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Criminal Court • The NATO • The World Bank • WHO • WTO • The education system • The social security system 	
EVS	1981 +	<p>Please look at this card and tell me, for each item listed, how much confidence you have in them, is it a great deal, quite a lot, not very much or none at all?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church • The armed forces • The education system • The press • Television • Trade unions • The police • Parliament • Civil service • The social security system • The EU • NATO • UN Organizations • Health care system • The justice system • Major companies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great deal 2. Quite a lot 3. Not very much 4. None at all



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental organizations • Political parties • Government • Social media 	
EB	1984	<p>I will now ask your opinion on a number of items will you please for each item select on this list of the answer which best describes your own opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The courts of law can be trusted 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disagree completely 2. Disagree to some extent 3. Agree if anything 4. Broadly agree 5. Completely agree
ISSP	1991 +	<p>How much confidence do you have in ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The [COUNTRY] parliament • Business and Industry • The Civil Service • Churches and religious organizations • Courts and the legal system • Schools and the educational system • The educational system in [COUNTRY] • The healthcare system in [COUNTRY] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete confidence 2. A great deal of confidence 3. Some confidence 4. Very little confidence 5. No confidence at all
EB	1997 +	<p>I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The press • Radio • Television • Justice • The police 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tend to trust. 2. Tend not to trust.



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The army • The Church • Trade unions • Political parties • Civil service • Big companies • National government • National Parliament • European Union • United Nations • Nongovernmental organizations • Charities / Charitable or voluntary organizations • The educational system • The justice system 	
EB	1999 +	<p>For each of the following European institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Parliament. • The European Commission • The Council Of ministers of the European Union • The Court of Justice of the European Communities • The European Ombudsman • The European Central Bank • The European Court of Auditors • The Committee of the Regions of the European Union • The Social and Economic Committee of the European Union • The Convention on the Future of the European Union. 	<p>1. Tend to trust. 2. Tend not to trust.</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
CCEB	2000 +	<p>Which of the following international institutions had you ever heard of before this interview? And do you tend to trust it, or not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN • UNESCO • NATO • EU • OSCE • European Parliament • European Commission • Council of Europe • European Court of Human Rights • International Court of Justice • The Council of Ministers of the EU • The European Ombudsman • The European Central Bank • The European Court of Auditors • The Committee of the Regions of the EU • The Social and Economic Committee of the EU • The Convention on the future of the EU 	<p>1. Tend to trust 2. Tend to not trust</p>
CCEB	2001 +	<p>I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The press • Radio • Television 	<p>1. Tend to trust 2. Tend to not trust</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice / the [COUNTRY] legal system • The police • The army • The Churches / the religious institutions • Trade unions • Political parties • Civil service • Big companies • The [COUNTRY] government • The [COUNTRY] parliament • The EU • The UN • Non-governmental organizations • Charitable or voluntary organizations 	
ESS	2002 +	<p>Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [COUNTRY] Parliament • The legal system • The police • Politicians • Political parties • The European Parliament • The UN • Scientists (2020) 	<p>0 – No trust at all ... 10 – Complete trust</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
EB	2007	<p>From the following list, which are the information media you trust the most firstly? And secondly?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers • Written magazines • Television • Radio • Internet 	<p>1. First mention 2. Second mention</p>
EQLS	2007 +	<p>Please tell me how much you trust each of these institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Nationality] Parliament • The legal system • The press / the news media • The police • The government • The political parties • The local (municipal) authorities • Banks • Humanitarian or charitable organizations 	<p>1. Do not trust at all ... 10. Trust completely</p>
ISSP	2017 +	<p>On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you personally trust each of the following institutions? 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you trust it completely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University research centers • The news media • Business and Industry • The [COUNTRY] Parliament • [COUNTRY] courts • Major private companies 	<p>0. No trust at all ... 10. Complete trust</p>



Survey	Year	Question text	Scale
Voices of Central Europe	2020	<p>I would like to ask you, how much trust you personally trust or distrust the following institutions in [your country].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • President • Courts and judiciary • Standard mainstream media • Political parties • Police • Armed forces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely trust 2. Rather trust 3. Rather distrust 4. Completely distrust
WVS + TrustGov	2020	<p>Using a 10 point scale, can you please tell me how much you trust [name of the Head of State] where 0 means “no trust at all” and 10 means “a great deal of trust”?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. No trust at all ... 10. A great deal of trust
WVS + TrustGov	2020	<p>Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am usually cautious about trusting politicians • It is best to be cautious about trusting the government 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disagree strongly 2. Disagree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Agree 5. Agree strongly

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