

Regulations for the Governance of Stichting European Value Systems Study Group

Based on article 10 of the statutes of the “Stichting European Value Systems Study Group”

Contents

1. Preamble	2
1.1. Purpose of the European Values Study	2
1.2. Legal Status of the European Values Study	2
2. Partnership	3
2.1. Partnership Types and Accession	3
2.2. Rights and Obligations of Associate Partners	3
2.3. Rights and Obligations of Full Partners	3
2.4. Termination of Partnership and Loss of Voting Rights	4
3. Finances	5
4. Organs and Procedures	6
4.1. EVS Assembly	6
4.2. EVS Council	6
4.3. Executive Committee	7
4.4. Scientific Committee	7
4.5. Data Archive	8
4.6. Editorial Board of European Values Series	9
4.7. Further Groups	9
4.8. Common Rules and Procedures	9
5. Scientific independence, transparency and integrity	10
6. Confidentiality and reputation	11
7. Collaboration, Data Dissemination, and Intellectual Property Rights	12
8. Entry into force	13

1. Preamble

1.1. Purpose of the European Values Study

The European Values Study (EVS) is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research programme on basic human values. It provides insights into the ideas, beliefs, preferences, attitudes, values and opinions of citizens all over Europe. It is a unique research project on how Europeans think about life, family, work, religion, politics and society. It is meant to inform the worldwide community of academic scholars as well as political decision makers of European states and the European Union and the general public about the opinions, beliefs, attitudes and values of the Europeans. Therefore, EVS makes the primary data available to the scientific community and for public policy purposes in a timely fashion and without pursuing economic profits for their institutions or themselves. In order to collect primary data and to publish about the results, national research institutes and Universities collaborate within the European Values Study. These institutes and Universities are partners in a consortium aiming at fostering research on European values. All data collected and analyses performed by the partners of the consortium will be conducted according to the highest scientific standards, and results will be made available to the public via appropriate scientific and media channels.

1.2. Legal Status of the European Values Study

- (1) Conducting the survey described in Section 1 is the purpose of the organisation called “European Value Systems Study Group” (EVSSG). The EVSSG is a non-profit organisation, legally constituted as a charity foundation under Dutch law, with its seat in Tilburg.
- (2) The Board of the Foundation is charged with managing the Foundation, administering the assets and the judicial and extrajudicial representation of the Foundation. As such, the Board is the legal management entity. The Board initiates and mediates contacts with funding agencies to support the infrastructure and, as far as possible, the surveys in countries which are not able to secure funding of the surveys. The Board delegates the EVS project management to the Executive Committee whose members are elected by the EVS Assembly.

2. Partnership

2.1. Partnership Types and Accession

- (1) There are two types of Partnership: Full Partnership and Associate Partnership.
- (2) Full and Associate Partnership can be awarded only to institutions/legal entities.
- (3) EVS aims at having an Associate or Full Partner from every European country. There cannot be more than one Partner per country. In the case several institutions in one country jointly become Partner of EVS, these institutions should cooperate in conducting the national survey and appoint one to the EVS bodies.
- (4) Partnership of EVS is by invitation of the EVS Assembly for all Partnership types, following a majority vote of the EVS Assembly. No new Partner is admitted until its intention and ability to participate in EVS activities according to the statutes and this regulation is assured. Applications for partnership are to be directed to the Executive Committee, which prepares the decision of the EVS Assembly.
- (5) New Associate Partners are appointed by the EVS Assembly after a formal application for partnership with answers to standard questions about methodology and survey procedures.
- (6) New Full Partners are appointed after a formal application for upgrading from Associate Partnership. In addition to the requirements for Associate Partnership, Full Partners have to credibly commit themselves to long-term support for the EVS beyond conducting the national fieldwork of the current or upcoming data collection campaign.

2.2. Rights and Obligations of Associate Partners

- (1) Associate Partners have the right to use the label “European Values Study Associate”, to designate their respective national survey as part of the European Values Study, to attend the EVS Council, to vote in the EVS Council, and to nominate candidates for working groups from their midst.
- (2) Associate Partners are obliged to undertake every effort to conduct the survey in their country of origin according to the procedures and principles set forth by the EVS.
- (3) Associate Partners pledge to foster the use of EVS data by conducting research of their own, and by propagating EVS in their country and within their networks.
- (4) Partnership rights can be waived and ultimately Partnership can be withdrawn by majority vote of the EVS Assembly if an Associate Partner seriously fails to meet its obligations. Partners are obliged to report immediately to the EVS Executive Committee about all risks arising to their ability to fulfil their obligations.

2.3. Rights and Obligations of Full Partners

- (1) Full Partners have all rights and obligations of Associate Partners.
- (2) Full Partners have the right to use the label “European Values Study Partner” and to designate their respective national survey as part of the European Values Study.

- (3) Full Partners have the right to nominate candidates for the EVS Executive Committee.
- (4) Full Partners are obliged to contribute a Partnership fee as set by the EVS Assembly.
- (5) Full Partners pledge to attend all meetings of the EVS Assembly. Voting rights cannot be transferred to other Partners.
- (6) Partnership rights can be waived, and Full Partnership can be withdrawn by majority vote of the EVS Assembly if a Full Partner does not meet their obligations.

2.4. Termination of Partnership and Loss of Voting Rights

- (1) Partnership may be terminated by a majority of the EVS Assembly.
- (2) Each Partner can terminate their Partnership by request to the Chair of the Executive Committee. Any outstanding Partnership fees for previous years and the current calendar year must be paid. For the year of the termination of Partnership, the fee due is proportional to the number of months of the calendar year passed until the date of the termination of Partnership.
- (3) The voting rights of a Partner will automatically lapse if the Partner has failed to conduct the national EVS survey and to deposit its data with the Data Archive within the prescribed time spans.
- (4) Four years in advance of every upcoming survey round, the EVS Executive Committee will elicit declarations of the intention to participate in the upcoming round from existing Partners. Partners that do not declare their intention to participate within the time set lose their Partnership status, and the Executive Committee will initiate steps to find a new Partner for the respective country.

3. Finances

- (1) By default, each national group is responsible for acquiring funds to cover its own expenses, including conducting the survey in their country.
- (2) By default, the budgets for international coordination and for the Data Archive are provided by the Partner holding the Chair of the Executive Committee and the Data Archive respectively.
- (3) By default, the host for meetings provides the budget for the organization of and facilities for that meeting, but not for the participants' expenses.
- (4) Third party funding can be sought by any party or parties participating in EVS for any of the purposes and functions described in these Statutes.
- (5) By default, Partnership fees collected from Full Partners will be used to support the administrative and organizational work of the Executive Committee, the organization of the EVS Assembly and EVS group meetings, publicity and data dissemination related work, and other central services to the group including data archiving, in that order of priority. The EVS Assembly can decide to deviate from this order of priority.
- (6) Partnership fees for Full Partners follow the country-wise fee structure established by the International Sociological Association. Fees are to be paid from the calendar year of the accession of the respective Partner.
- (7) The EVS Assembly decides the amount of the fees. The current fees are: cat A: € 1000; cat B: €200; cat C: €100.

4. Organs and Procedures

4.1. EVS Assembly

- (1) The EVS Assembly consists of the Full Partners of EVS. The EVS Assembly is the highest scientific authority of EVS. It decides strategic questions of long-term relevance, including the mandatory methodological standards to be followed in conducting the survey, the Partnership fees, the planned budget, the financial accounts report delivered by the Executive Committee, accession, status and termination of Partnership for Associate and Full Partners, and changes to these statutes. In this last case a quorum of two-thirds of all Full Partners is needed.
- (2) The daily responsibilities are delegated to the EVS Executive Committee. The EVS Assembly elects the Chair, the Secretary, and four optional members of the Executive Committee.
- (3) The EVS Assembly meets as often as required, but at least once a year; the meetings may be held online.
- (4) Meetings can be called for by the Executive Committee, and by written request of at least a third of the current Full Partners.
- (5) Every Full Partner has one vote in the EVS Assembly, regardless of the number of institutions or countries they represent.
- (6) At meetings of the EVS Assembly, the maximum number of speaking delegates per Full Partner is 3.
- (7) The Data Archive of the EVS group has a seat in the EVS Assembly in its own right with full voting rights. It is not regarded as representing any country.
- (8) The EVS Assembly elects its Chair for a period of four years, by majority of the votes cast. The Chair of the EVS Assembly is excluded from passive voting rights in other offices of the EVS group.
- (9) Decisions of the EVS Assembly can be taken through electronic voting. The EVS Executive Committee and the Chair of the EVS Assembly jointly decide which decisions can be voted upon through electronic voting and which decisions should be voted upon at meetings. In cases of disagreement between the Chair of Assembly and Executive Committee about the voting mode for a particular decision, voting on that particular decision is automatically to be at a meeting.

4.2. EVS Council

- (1) The EVS Council is the common assembly of Associate and Full Partners of EVS. The Council determines the topical focus of each EVS survey round and advises on conducting the survey across Europe.
- (2) The Council elects the members of the Scientific Committee and decides about the major topics for the upcoming wave of the EVS.
- (3) Its meetings are held in a timely fashion in advance of the upcoming survey waves as needed.
- (4) Associate and Full Partners have one vote in the Council.

- (5) Meetings of the Council are chaired by the Chair of the EVS Assembly.

4.3. Executive Committee

- (1) The Executive Committee is responsible for running the day to day business of the EVS Group and for preparing meetings and decisions of the EVS Assembly and the EVS Council.
- (2) Aiming at a minimum of one EVS related event per year, the members of the Executive Committee propose meetings/seminars/congresses and sessions at existing congresses. They also organize data confrontation seminars to be held after releases of new data. Further, they can initiate publications.
- (3) The EVS Executive Committee consists of a Chair, a Secretary, and optionally up to four further members with expert status as directly elected members. Further, a representative of the Data Archive of the EVS, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, and a member of the Foundation are ex officio-members. Advisors to the Executive Committee are the Chair of the GA and a editor of the European Values book series.
- (4) Elections of the members of EVS Executive Committee are held at an EVS Assembly meeting. Members are elected for a four-year period and can be re-elected.
- (5) Decisions of the Executive Committee are by simple majority, with a quorum of at least two thirds of the members having voted or abstained.

4.4. Scientific Committee

- (1) The Scientific Committee has tasks in the field of theory, methodology and impact, that may be organized in different subgroups.
- (2) The Scientific Committee is composed of up to 12 members elected by the Council. Elections are held every four years.
- (3) The Scientific Committee by majority vote elects a Chair from the Full Partners in their midst.
- (4) The Scientific Committee takes care of any substantive issues with regard to the EVS master questionnaire (see points 5 and 6); the development and monitoring of any methodological aspects concerning the survey (see points 7 to 10); the promotion of scientific dissemination and visibility of EVS results (see point 11).
- (5) The Scientific Committee critically evaluates the existing questionnaire content from previous survey rounds and prepares proposals to the Council for improvements, new topics and issues to be included, and items and questions to be dropped.
- (6) The Scientific Committee is encouraged to invite experts on particular subject areas as non-voting advisors to attend questionnaire drafting meetings.
- (7) The Scientific Committee takes care of the methodological quality of the project; from data collection, cleaning and handling to recommended techniques for data analyses.
- (8) Tasks of the Scientific Committee are:

- a. Prior to the survey: define allowable sampling procedures, evaluate the methodological quality of items in the draft questionnaire, identify problems of comparability, plan the fielding of the survey, make recommendations on socio-demographic background variables.
 - b. During the fielding phase: support the national fieldwork monitoring.
 - c. After fieldwork: Decide about inclusion and exclusion of national survey samples into the integrated EVS data file where potential problems have been identified.
- (9) The Scientific Committee evaluates the methodological aspects in Partnership applications and in assessments of existing members' ability to fulfil their obligations. Based on these evaluations, the Scientific Committee advises the EVS Assembly to grant, deny, or withdraw Partnership status.
- (10) The Scientific Committee formulates and – if needed – constantly updates methodological principles and guidelines to be applied by EVS Partners in conducting the program. It actively advises the EVS Assembly which procedures should become mandatory for EVS Partners.
- (11) The Scientific Committee is responsible to propose to the Executive Committee and then realize activities aimed at reinforcing the impact of EVS. Tasks related to this responsibility concerns, for example, the scientific preparation of seminars, conferences, panels, networking activities, contributions to EVS project applications, communication of EVS results to different targets, including policy makers. In these tasks, the Scientific Committee is supported by the EVS Secretariat for the organizational aspects.

4.5. Data Archive

- (1) To meet its goal of optimal availability of the EVS data to the scientific community, EVS charges a Data Archive with the task of data preservation and dissemination.
- (2) The Data Archive makes the EVS data available to the worldwide scientific community, using state of the art distribution technologies, licensing models, and documentation standards.
- (3) The Data Archive further applies state of the art measures for the digital long-term preservation of all relevant materials that are submitted by EVS.
- (4) The Data Archive at every regular meeting of the Council and at every EVS Assembly delivers a report of its activities. Further, it reports to the EVS Executive Committee on an annual basis in written form.
- (5) By default, the data shall be available for research purposes without any charges to scientific users. If charges have to be collected, no amounts other than usual in the dissemination of publicly funded social science research data must be collected.
- (6) In close cooperation with the Scientific Committee, the Data Archive supports the processes of integrating the national surveys of each round of EVS into international files, and of documenting the EVS survey data throughout all phases of the survey process.
- (7) In cooperation with the Scientific Committee, the Data Archive can set forth binding rules for the format, documentation and deposit procedure of national data sets. If Partners do not obey

these rules, the Data Archive can propose to the Scientific Committee the exclusion of certain national data from the further data integration process.

- (8) Detailed relations of EVS and its Data Archive are to be regulated by written agreement.

4.6. Editorial Board of European Values Series

- (1) The European Values Series is published by Open Press TiU, and it is open access.
- (2) The Series contains books on European Values in general, not necessarily using the data of the European Values Study.
- (3) The series has two editors and an editorial board with about five members.
- (4) The editors and the editorial board are appointed by the Executive Committee. The editors suggest the editorial board members.

4.7. Further Groups

- (1) Additional temporary working groups can be installed by the EVS Assembly or by the EVS Executive Committee as appropriate. The installation of additional permanent working groups needs confirmation from the EVS Assembly.

4.8. Common Rules and Procedures

- (1) In all organs of EVS, voting rights are allocated per Partner, except for the vote of the Data Archive which is regarded as supranational.
- (2) All decisions of EVS bodies except decisions of the EVS Assembly on these regulations are taken by simple majority of the votes cast, not counting abstentions or invalid votes.
- (3) If tied outcomes arise after regular voting, the vote of the Chair of the respective organ breaks the tie.
- (4) There is no restriction on the repeated election of particular Partners for a given office.
- (5) All organs can meet and vote either in on-site meetings or by appropriate electronic means, or by combinations thereof.
- (6) If issues about procedures, including voting procedures, cannot be resolved within any organ, they shall be forwarded to the EVS Executive Committee for resolution. The EVS Executive Committee decides by consensus on such matters. If no consensus can be found, the issue must be forwarded to the EVS Assembly for resolution by majority decision

5. Scientific independence, transparency and integrity

- (1) The European Values Systems Study Group Foundation and the European Values Study project values scientific independence, transparency, and integrity.
- (2) Partners honour the scientific independence of the European Values Systems Study Group Foundation, the research and publications arising therefrom, and will not undertake actions to limit the scientific independence.
- (3) The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice (Gedragscode Wetenschapsbeoefening) of the Association of the Universities (Vereniging Samenwerkende Universiteiten) and the ALLEA European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity apply to the European Values Study project.

6. Confidentiality and reputation

- (1) Partners will treat information and documents, on which confidentiality is imposed, as confidential and will not distribute this information to organizations or individuals outside the network, without prior permission of the Board.
- (2) Partners will not act in any way that can harm the reputation of the Foundation, the project or (one of) the other partner(s).

7. Collaboration, Data Dissemination, and Intellectual Property Rights

- (1) The European Values Study-project focuses on collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the provision of research data to the Scientific Community.
- (2) Partners will refrain from any commercial activity during meetings of the European Values Study project.
- (3) By participation in the European Values Study-project, Partners do not transfer intellectual property rights they own to another Partner, or the Foundation, unless explicitly specified within these regulations or explicitly set down in written agreements.
- (4) Partners retain all conventional property and intellectual rights to the national survey data collected under their immediate responsibility (in particular, with funding acquired through them). Specifically, each partner is free to publish results from their national data without any limitations other than those of good research practice. Further, the obligations described in sentence (5) shall not hinder partners from meeting any obligations for the archiving of their national data that their respective national or institutional regulations might require.
- (5) Each Partner agrees:
 - a. that (survey and other relevant) research data collected by them in their role as EVS Partners can be made available to the international research community by the designated Data Archive of the EVS. Specifically, each partner shall make the national data and all required related materials available for the production of international level data files through the EVS Study Group. Partners shall provide their national data for inclusion in data integration projects outside the EVS Group only after consultation with the EVS Executive Committee.
 - b. that question formulations, translations, etc. developed by them as part of the EVS work can be freely used by the EVS Study Group for data documentation, dissemination, and future data collection work as deemed useful by the EVS Study Group, even after the Partner leaves the Group.
- (6) The EVS Study Group retains the right to control the use of EVS-produced data for any other purpose than immediate scientific analysis by individual researchers or academic teaching. No integration of the data into other data sets/data products is allowable without written consent of the EVS Study Group.
- (7) The EVS Study Group can delegate the management of intellectual property rights as stated in paragraph (5) above partly or wholly to its Data Archive.

8. Entry into force

This regulation shall take effect from November 1, 2022.