New in Version 9 compared to Version 8

- **New country**

  Malta (Coded: 1900–2018).

- **New thematic areas**

  Exclusion, Legitimation and Digital Society.

- **The Digital Society Survey**

  The Digital Society Survey, designed by the Digital Society Project, contains questions pertaining to the political environment of the internet and social media. The data collected through expert-coded surveys provides information on topics related to coordinated information operations, digital media freedom, online media polarization, social cleavages as well as state internet regulation capacity and approach.

  For more information, please visit `https://www.digitalsocietyproject.org`

- **New indices**
  - Exclusion by Gender (v2xpe_exlgender)
  - Exclusion by Social Group (v2xpe_exlsocgr)
  - Exclusion by Urban-Rural Location (v2xpe_exlgeo)
  - Exclusion by Socio-Economic Group (v2xpe_exlecon)
  - Exclusion by Political Group (v2xpe_exlpol)
  - Hereditary dimension index (v2x_ex_hereditary)
  - Military dimension index (v2x_ex_military)
  - Ruling party dimension index (v2x_ex_party)
  - Direct election dimension index (v2x_ex_direlect)
  - Confidence dimension index (v2x_ex_confidence)
- **New indicators**
  - Regime information (v2reginfo)
  - Regime end type (v2regendtype)
  - Ideology (v2exl_legitideol)
  - Person of the Leader (v2exl_legitlead)
  - Performance legitimation (v2exl_legitperf)
  - Rational-legal legitimation (v2exl_legitratio)
  - Exclusion variables:
    - Power distributed by urban-rural location (v2pepwrgeo)
    - Gender equality in respect for civil liberties (v2clgencl)
    - Political group equality in respect for civil liberties (v2clpolcl)
    - Urban-rural location equality in respect for civil liberties (v2clgeocl)
    - Access to public services distributed by social group (v2peapssoc)
    - Access to public services distributed by gender (v2peapsgen)
    - Access to public services distributed by socio-economic position (v2peapsecon)
    - Access to public services distributed by political group (v2peapspol)
    - Access to public services distributed by urban-rural location (v2peapsgeo)
    - Access to state jobs by social group (v2peasjsoc)
    - Access to state jobs by gender (v2peasjgen)
    - Access to state jobs by socio-economic position (v2peasjsoecon)
    - Access to state jobs by urban-rural location (v2peasjgeo)

    - Access to state jobs by political group (v2peasjpol)
    - Access to state business opportunities by social group (v2peasbsoc)
    - Access to state business opportunities by gender (v2peasbgen)
    - Access to state business opportunities by socio-economic position (v2peasbecon)
    - Access to state business opportunities by political group (v2peasbepol)
    - Access to state business opportunities by urban-rural location (v2peasbegeo)
  - Digital society variables:
    - Government dissemination of false information domestic (v2smgovdom)
    - Government dissemination of false information abroad (v2smgovab)
    - Party dissemination of false information domestic (v2smpardom)
    - Party dissemination of false information abroad (v2smparab)
    - Foreign governments dissemination of false information (v2smfordom)
    - Foreign governments ads (v2smforads)
    - Government Internet filtering capacity (v2smgovfilcap)
    - Government Internet filtering in practice (v2smgovfilprc)
    - Government Internet shut down capacity (v2smgovshutcap)
    - Government Internet shut down in practice (v2smgovshut)
    - Government social media shut down in practice (v2smgovsm)
    - Government social media alternatives (v2smgovsmalt)
    - Government social media monitoring (v2smgovsmmon)
    - Government social media censorship in practice (v2smgovsmcenprc)
    - Government cyber security capacity (v2smgovcapsec)
    - Political parties cyber security capacity (v2smpolcap)
    - Internet legal regulation content (v2smregcon)
    - Privacy protection by law exists (v2smprivex)
    - Privacy protection by law content (v2smprivcon)
    - Government capacity to regulate online content (v2smregcap) .
    - Government online content regulation approach (v2smregapp)
    - Defamation protection (v2smlawpr)
    - Abuse of defamation and copyright law by elites (v2smdefabu)
    - Online media existence (v2smonex)
    - Online media perspectives (v2smonper)
    - Online media fractionalization (v2smmefra)
    - Online harassment groups (v2smhargr)
    - Other online harassment groups (v2smhargrtxt)
    - Use of social media to organize offline violence (v2smorgviol)
    - Average people's use of social media to organize offline action (v2smorgavgact)
    - Elites' use of social media to organize offline action (v2smorgelitact)
    - Types of organization through social media (v2smorgtypes)
    - Party/candidate use of social media in campaigns (v2smcamp)
    - Arrests for political content (v2smarrest)
    - Polarization of society (v2smpolsoc)
    - Political parties hate speech (v2smpolhate)

- **Modified indices and indicators**
  - The "Elected officials index" (v2x_elecoff) has been modfied.
  - All multiple selection questions coded by country experts are now dichotomized and aggregated by mean.
  - e_v2x_neopat has been renamed to v2x_neopat.
  - e_v2xnp_client has been renamed to v2xnp_client.

  - e_v2xnp_pres has been renamed to v2xnp_pres.
  - e_v2xnp_regcorr has been renamed to v2xnp_regcorr.
  - The scale for v2x_neopat, v2xnp_client, v2xnp_pres and v2xnp_regcorr has been reversed, i.e. lower scores now indicate lower levels of neopatrimonialism and higher scores indicate higher levels of neopatrimonialism.
  - v2ex_elecleg has been renamed to v2xex_elecleg.
  - v2x_divparctrl was wrongly calculated for v7–v8 (too many observations were set to missing). This has been fixed for v9.

- Other new or modified information
  - Updated list of countries.
  - Updated list of variables.
  - Updated citations for V-Dem's reference materials.
  - Updated *Country Coding Units* document.

- **Removed versions of indices and indicators**
  - Versions of election-specific variables for executive elections only (*_ex) and legislative elections only (*_leg) have been removed since these can easily be created (using v2xel_elecparl or v2xel_elecpres). For more information, please see section 3.1 *(Elections)*.
  - Historical V-Dem indicators with v3–tags are continuously merged with the corresponding contemporary V-Dem v2–indicators. This results in the removal of v3–indicators, but extension of the time-series (further back in time) of the corresponding v2–indicators. The year coverage is indicated in the newly added "years" section for each variable entry.
  - Many external variables (E) were removed, since they were considered redundant. For a list of currently available variables, see the sections labeled *Background Factors* and *Other Democracy Indices and Indicators*.
  - Superfluous *_nr versions for multiple selection questions have been removed. There is now one *_nr version per multiple selection variable and not one for each category.

For more details on changes to previous versions of the dataset, please see Appendix F in version 9 of the V-Dem codebook. All codebook versions are available at `https://www.v-dem.net/en/` under "Reference".