Codebook (English)

VAA Dataset Europartycheck

Authors:

Jan Philipp Thomeczek

L. Constantin Wurthmann

Christian Stecker

Variables

startdate

Date and time user started answering questions.

datestamp

Date and time user closed website.

Background sociodemographic variables

gender

Gender of the user.

1	Man
2	Woman
3	Diverse
4	Other

bundesland

Federal state where the user resides.

1	Baden-Wuerttemberg
2	Bavaria
3	Berlin
4	Brandenburg
5	Bremen
6	Hamburg
7	Hesse
8	Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
9	Lower Saxony
10	North Rhine-Westphalia
11	Rhineland-Palatinate
12	Saarland

13	Saxony
14	Saxony-Anhalt
15	Schleswig-Holstein
16	Thuringia
99	I do not live in Germany

age

Age of the user.

98	Under 16
1	16-17 years
2	18 - 20 years
3	21 - 24 years
4	25 - 29 years
5	30 - 34 years
6	35 - 39 years
7	40 - 44 years
8	45 - 49 years
9	50 - 54 years
10	55 - 59 years
11	60 - 64 years
12	65 - 69 years
13	70 - 74 years
14	75 - 79 years
15	80 years and older

education

Highest educational qualification of the user.

1	Completed school without a diploma
2	Secondary general school diploma, vocational school diploma, or completion of the 8th or 9th grade of polytechnic secondary school
3	Intermediate school diploma, technical school diploma, or completion of the 10th grade of polytechnic secondary school
4	University of applied sciences entrance qualification (e.g., technical secondary school)
5	High school diploma or advanced secondary school qualification (12th grade)
6	Other school qualification
7	Currently at school

university

Does the user have a university degree (e.g., Bachelor, Master, Diploma, Magister)?

1	yes
2	no

Party Codes

For all vote intention and recall, the following party codes were used:

1	SPD
2	CDU/CSU
3	Grüne
4	FDP
5	AfD
6	Die Linke
7	BSW
8	Freie Wähler
9	Volt
10	Die PARTEI
11	dieBasis
12	Tierschutzpartei
13	ÖDP
14	Bündnis Deutschland
15	Piratenpartei
16	Diem/Mera25
17	PdH (Partei der Humanisten)
18	(empty)
19	PdF (Partei des Fortschritts)
20	Familienpartei
21	PdV (Partei der Vernunft)
22	V3 Partei
23	Letzte Generation (Parlament aufmischen)
24	Klimaliste
25	Werteunion
32	Other

---

recall

Political party voted for in the last federal election (2021) with the second vote.
For party codes, see above

33	I did not vote
97	I was not eligible to vote
98	I cast an invalid vote
99	I don’t remember

recallland [only asked to users from Brandenburg, Thuringia and Saxony]

Political party voted for in the last state election (2019) with the second vote.
For party codes, see above.

33	I did not vote

97	I was not eligible to vote
98	I cast an invalid vote
99	I don’t remember

Main VAA Items

The following 15 items (as well as “peoplecentrism” and “antielitism” from the additional questionnaire”) were also included in the party expert survey and can be used to study party-voter congruence. They were originally asked on a 0 to 10 scale, but stored with values from 1 to 11 due to technical reasons.

econinterven

The user's opinion regarding government intervention in the economy.

1	Strongly supports state intervention in the economy
11	Strongly opposes state intervention in the economy

saleconinterven

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

environment

The user's opinion on whether environmental protection or economic growth is more important.

1	Strongly favors environmental protection, even at the expense of economic growth
11	Strongly favors economic growth, even at the expense of environmental protection

salenvironment

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

protectionism

The user's opinion on whether they favor free trade or protectionism.

1	Strongly supports international free trade
11	Strongly supports protecting domestic production

salprotectionism

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

redistribution

The user's opinion on social redistribution policies.

1	Strongly supports social redistribution
11	Strongly opposes social redistribution

salredistribution

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

eucohesion

The user's opinion on EU Structural Funds, which provide financial support to economically weak regions.

1	Strongly opposes the EU Structural Funds
11	Strongly supports the EU Structural Funds

saleucohesion

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

euenlargement

The user's opinion on whether the EU should expand to include more member states.

1	EU enlargement has gone too far
10	The EU should be expanded to include additional member states

saleuenlargement

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

euforeign

The user's opinion on strengthening a common EU foreign and security policy.

1	Member states should prioritize their own interests
11	It is important for the EU to speak with one voice

saleuforeign

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

euintegrationtoofar

The user's opinion on whether the EU's powers are too extensive or need to be expanded.

1	The EU should return powers to national governments
11	National governments should transfer more powers to the EU

saleuintegrationtoofar

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

euposition

The user's general attitude toward European integration.

1	Strongly opposed
11	Strongly in favor

saleuposition

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

civliblaworder

The user's opinion on balancing civil liberties and crime prevention.

1	Strongly favors prioritizing civil liberties
11	Strongly favors strict laws to combat crime

salcivliblaworder

Importance of this issue.1	Not at all important
11	Very important

immigratepolicy

The user's opinion on immigration policies.

0	Strongly supports open/liberal immigration policies
10	Strongly supports strict/restrictive immigration policies

salimmigratepolicy

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

lgb

The user's opinion on expanding or restricting the rights of sexual minorities such as Gays, Bisexuals and Lesbians.

1	The rights of sexual minorities should be restricted
11	The rights of sexual minorities should be expanded

sallgb

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

multiculturalism

The user's opinion on whether they prefer a multicultural society or that migrants adapt to the country's culture.

1	Strongly favor a multicultural society
11	Strongly favor that migrants adapt

salmulticulturalism

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

trans

User's opinion on the rights of transgender individuals.

1	Transgender rights should be restricted
11	Transgender rights should be expanded

saltrans

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

urbanrural

Support the user shows for rural vs. urban interests.

1	Strongly support rural interests
11	Strongly support urban interests

salurbanrural

Importance of this issue.

1	Not at all important
11	Very important

Additional Questionnaire

ptv_spd

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the SPD in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_cdu

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the CDU in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_csu

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the CSU in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_greens

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the Grüne (Greens) in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_fdp

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the FDP in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_afd

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the AfD in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_left

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for Die Linke (The Left) in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_bsw

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the BSW in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_freevoters

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the Freie Wähler (Free Voters) in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_volt

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the Volt in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

ptv_climelist

Likelihood the user assigns to voting for the Klimaliste (Climate List) in a future election.

-5	Very unlikely
5	Very likely

votinteu

User’s voting intention for the upcoming EU election on June 9, 2024.
For party codes, see above.

33	Will not vote
97	I am not eligible to vote
98	I will cast an invalid vote
99	I don’t know

normdem

How important is it to the user to live in a country that is democratically governed?

-5	Not at all important
5	Absolutely important

demsat

User's satisfaction with democracy in Germany.

1	Very dissatisfied
2	Dissatisfied
3	Mixed
4	Satisfied
5	Very satisfied
6	Don't know

[Note: Users randomly either saw "popnonreg" or "popreg". "popreg" items were further split into East and West Germany versions for the respective states, with Berlin not being assigned to either region.]

popnonreg_pc1

User's opinion on the statement: "German interests are neglected in Brussels."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popnonreg_pc2

User's opinion on the statement: "Politicians use their power to improve people's lives."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popnonreg_pc4

User's opinion on the statement: "EU politicians in Brussels waste hard-earned German tax money."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popnonreg_pc5

User's opinion on the statement: "The people, not politicians, should make the most important political decisions."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popnonreg_pc6

User's opinion on the statement: "The will of the people should be the most important principle for the country's politics."

1	Strongly disagree

2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popnonreg_pc7

User's opinion on the statement: "Politicians should always listen carefully to people's problems."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popnonreg_pc8

User's opinion on the statement: "Politicians do not necessarily need to spend time with ordinary people to do a good job."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popreg_pc1

User's opinion on the statement: "East German interests are neglected in Brussels."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popreg_pc2

User's opinion on the statement: "Politicians in Brussels do not use their power to improve the lives of people in East Germany."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popreg_pc4

User's opinion on the statement: "EU politicians in Brussels waste hard-earned tax money from East Germany."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popreg_pc5

User’s opinion on the statement: “The East German people should make the most important political decisions for East Germany, not politicians in Berlin.”

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc6

User’s opinion on the statement: “The will of the East German people should be the most important principle for East German politics.”

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc7

User’s opinion on the statement: “Politicians in Brussels should always listen carefully to the problems of people in East Germany.”

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc8

User’s opinion on the statement: “Politicians in Brussels must spend time with ordinary people in East Germany to do a good job.”

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc9

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"Western German interests are neglected in Brussels."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc10

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"Politicians in Brussels do not use their power to improve the lives of people in Western Germany."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree

4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc12

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"EU politicians in Brussels waste hard-earned tax money from Western Germany."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc13

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"The Western German people should make the most important political decisions for Western Germany, not the politicians in Berlin."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc14

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"The will of the Western German population should be the most important principle for the politics in Western Germany."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc15

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"Politicians in Brussels should always listen carefully when it comes to the problems of the people in Western Germany."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popreg_pc16

Opinion of the respondent on the statement:
"Politicians in Brussels must spend time with ordinary people in Western Germany to do a good job."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

peoplecentrism

User’s opinion on the statement that people should always have the final say, not political parties or politicians.

1	Not at all
11	Very much

antielitism

User’s attitude towards the political elite.

1	Do not see the political elite critical at all
11	Sees the political elite very critical

polint

User's self-assessed interest in politics.

1	Not at all
2	Not very interested
3	Moderate
4	Interested
5	Very Interested
98	Don’t know

euitems_pc1

Agreement with:
"I have all the necessary information to decide whom to vote for in the European elections."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

euitems_pc2

Agreement with:
"I trust the institutions of the European Union."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

euitems_pc3

Agreement with:
"I feel like a citizen of the EU."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

euitems_pc4

Agreement with:
"The European Parliament takes into account the concerns of European citizens."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree

3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

euitems_pc5
Agreement with:
"I feel connected to Germany."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

euitems_pc6
Agreement with:
"I feel connected to Europe."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

euitems_pc7
Agreement with:
"It is very important to me to know which candidates are elected to the EU Parliament in the EU elections."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

euitems_pc8
Agreement with:
"It is very important to me to know which party has the most representatives for Germany after the elections."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popgen_pc1
Agreement with:
"Politics in Brussels is practically controlled by a few major interest groups who only think about themselves."
1 Strongly disagree
2 Somewhat disagree
3 Partly agree/Partly disagree
4 Somewhat agree
5 Strongly agree

popgen_pc2
Agreement with:

"Many politicians in Brussels are corrupt."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popgen_pc5

Agreement with:
"One can judge whether someone is a good or bad person based on their political opinions."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popgen_pc6

Agreement with:
"People who don't share my political views are not necessarily evil people."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

popgen_pc7

Agreement with:
"People who don't share my political views are just misinformed."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

wishesmajority

Agreement with:
"For years, the government has ignored the wishes of the majority."

1	Strongly disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
3	Partly agree/Partly disagree
4	Somewhat agree
5	Strongly agree

The following variables (wishesmajoritycomp_[party]) are response options for the question, "Which party/parties do you trust most to solve this problem?" This question refers to the previous question (wishesmajority). The variables correspond to individual parties.

wishesmajoritycomp_spd

SPD

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_cdu

CDU

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_csu

CSU

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_greens

Greens

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_fdp

FDP

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_afd

AfD

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_left

Die Linke

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_bsw

BSW

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_freevoters

Freie Wähler

Y	Yes
	No selection

wishesmajoritycomp_nonofparties

None of these parties

Y	Yes
	No selection

votint

Vote Intention for Bundestag Elections if they were held on Sunday.
For party codes, see above.

33	I would not go to vote
97	I would not be eligible to vote

98	I would vote invalid
99	Don’t know

Trust

For the following variables (trustslider_[…]), individual institutions are being queried. The user should indicate on a scale from -5 (no trust at all) to +5 (complete trust) how much they trust each institution.

trustslider_breg

Federal Government

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_btag

Federal Parliament

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_parties

Political parties

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_politicians

Politicians

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_eu

EU

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_nato

NATO

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_army

German Armed Forces

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_russia

Russian Government

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_usa

US Government

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_china

Chinese Government

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_bverfg

Federal Constitutional Court

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

trustslider_verfsch

Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution

-5	Do not trust at all
5	Trust completely

lrgen

Self-positioning on a general scale from "left" to "right".

1	Left
11	Right

socself

Self-positioning on a societal scale from "conservative" to "progressive".

1	conservative
11	progressive

urbanrurallive

Respondent's self-assessment of place of residence.

1	Large city
2	Edge or suburb of a large city
3	Medium-sized city
4	Small town
5	Rural village
6	Isolated farm or standalone rural house