MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS - - General Target Variable Report (GVR)

1. General Information

The target variable T_MEMBER_ORG measures respondents' current membership (i.e. at the time of the interview) in different types of organizations. The measure is dichotomous (see Table 1.1). It takes the value 1 whenever respondents report that they are currently members of, or belong to, at least one organization, and the value 0 when they are not members of, or do not belong, to any organizations.

The target variable T_MEMBER_ORG is accompanied by the harmonization control variable C_MEMBER_ORG_QUESTIONTYPE (see Table 1.1 and Section 3.3) specifying the type of question asked in a survey.

The target variable report for T_MEMBER_ORG is accompanied by the following Excel documents:

- The Detailed Variable Report (DVR) T_MEMBER_ORG_DVR_SDR2.xlsx. DVR Excel files in SDR2 systemize all information about source variables that were used for harmonization into a given target variable of the SDR2 database;
- The Crosswalk Table (CWT): T_MEMBER_ORG_CWT_SDR2.xlsx. CWT Excel files in SDR2 contain details about mapping of source values to target value.

Table 1.1 T_MEMBER_ORG: Description of the target, source, and control variables

	Variable description	**Variable name**	**Variable values**[a]
Target variable	Being a member of an organization at the time of the interview	T_MEMBER_ORG	1 = currently member 0 = currently not member
Source variables			See: T_MEMBER_ORG_DVR_SDR2.xlsx T_MEMBER_ORG_CWT_SDR2.xlsx
Control variables	Question type	C_MEMBER_ORG_QUESTIONTYPE	1 = single question, open-ended or organization type not specified 2 = single question about a specific type of organization 3 = single question, multiple types of organizations specified 4 = multiple questions about membership

[a] Missing values are assigned according to the SDR2 missing codes schema, provided in the Appendix.

2. Survey Projects

Source variables that we used for T_MEMBER_ORG appear in 20 international survey projects: ABS, AFB, AMB, ARB, ASES, CDCEE, CNEP, EB, ESS, EVS, ISJP, ISSP, LB, LITS, NBB, NEB, PA1, PA2, PPE7N, WVS, 97 waves and 1808 national surveys. The data cover 137 countries and years from 1966 to 2017.

3. General Rules and Procedures

3.1. Source data description

To construct the target variable T_MEMBER_ORG, we use source items about respondents' membership in, and belonging to, any type of organization at the time of the interview. We rely on the English, Spanish and Hungarian language questionnaires and codebooks describing the source survey data.

The majority of source surveys provide a list of organizations for respondents to mark membership in. The typical question is: *Are you a member of any organization that appears on this list?* (CDCEE/1-2), or *To which of the following organizations do you belong?* (CNEP/3). A typical list of organizations is: "*free time association, club; local association; political party, social (political) movement; ecological group; professional association (of lawyers, teachers, doctors, etc.); trade union; students association; parish religious organization; others*" (CDCEE/1-2). Other surveys asked respondents to write down three organizations that they are members of (e.g., ABS/2) or asked an open-ended question about belonging to any types of organizations (CNEP/3 Taiwan).

Apart from the standard item formulation discussed above, some source surveys use a different question wording to collect data on respondents' membership. Specifically, respondents were asked whether they are a member of, or belong to, groups (EB/10), groups or associations (LB/1996); subscribe to any kinds of clubs or societies (EB/8); follow movements (EB/25); or attend meetings of local associations (AFB/1). In some cases, a question deals with membership in a particular organization: *"Is respondent a member of a trade union?*" (ISSP/2005); "*Are you a member of any political party?*" (ESS/1).

Source items exhibit some variation in terms of answer options and value labels. Some surveys only ask about the fact of 'membership' or 'belonging', providing binary answer options such as 'yes', 'no', 'belong', 'does not belong', 'mentioned', 'not mentioned' categories of answers (e.g. ARB/1, ASES, CDCEE, LB, NBB, VPCPCE, WVS, CNEP/3 Spain, EB). Others enable respondents to mark whether they are active or inactive members, or whether they hold a leadership role (e.g. AFB/3, LITS, PA1). Another type of answer options provides a choice between 'belong and participate', 'belong not participate', 'used to belong' and 'never belonged to' (ISSP/2004 and ISSP/2014), or between 'is a member', 'might join', or 'would not join'

(EB/21, EB/25, EB/31). When the question is specifically about membership in political parties, some surveys also ask respondents to indicate which party they belong to (e.g., ISJP/1-2) or if they belong to a party in the government or in the opposition (e.g., LB/2013). Some surveys ask if the respondents themselves or someone else in the family is a member of a trade union (ISJP/1-2, NEB/4).

3.2. Rules of transformation of source variables into target variable

For ex-post harmonization, we select source variables that refer to respondents' membership or belonging to organizations, groups, associations, clubs, movements or societies at the time of the survey (i.e. currently). We do not harmonize variables about past membership/belonging.

Generally, we code only information about respondents' membership in/belonging to organizations (see Section 1 and Table 1.1). If respondents choose a particular organization from the list, name specifically the organization they belong to, indicate that currently they are themselves members of/ belong to organizations regardless of the active or inactive participation we assign the value 1. If respondents report that they do not belong to any organization (or indicate that someone else in the family is a member), we assign the value 0. When respondents refer to their past membership or indicate the intention to join an organization, we also assign the value 0.

Missing values and different situations that warrant to be treated as missing data are coded according to the SDR2 missing codes schema, provided in Table A.1 in the Appendix.

3.3. Methodological variables that accompany T_MEMBER_ORG

The target variable T_MEMBER_ORG is accompanied by the harmonization control variable C_MEMBER_ORG_QUESTIONTYPE (see Table 1.1). This measure specifies the structure of the membership question(s) asked in a survey.

It takes the value 1 when the single source question about membership is (i) generic (it does not specify the type of organizations, e.g.,"Here is a list of some of the organizations that many people join. Do you belong to any of the kinds of organizations shown on this list?" (PA2 `v1240`), or (ii) it is open-ended, and respondents can list multiple organizations, e.g., "Could you please tell me if you belong to any of the types of organizations? (open ended question)" (CNEP/3 Taiwan items from `Z.Tw.F.Aso1` to `Z.Tw.F.Aso5`).

It takes the value 2 when the single source question is about membership in a particular type of organizations (e.g. union in ISSP/1997 Belgium: "Are you currently a member of a union, did you be a member once or have you never been a member of a union?").

It takes the value 3 when the single source question asked respondents to mark membership in one or more organizations from a list the survey provided, e.g., : "Could you please tell me if you belong to any of the types of organizations? Trade unions; professional or business organisation; religious group, political parties or group; educational, artistic or cultural group; environmental or

ecological group; youth or women' or senior citizens' group; sport clubs; feminisr organisation; local association; parents' organisation" (17 CNEP/3 Portugal items prefixed `Z.Aso`).

The value 4 indicates that a survey asked multiple questions about membership in organizations (e.g. LITS/3, WVS/1-6).

4. Special Cases

- In LB/1996 `p72d`, the question asks: "Which of the following things have you done in the last year or two? Been a member of an environmental group even if you joined more than 2 years ago". We harmonize this source variable since the wording - which we checked in Spanish - suggests that a respondent is still a member of an environmental group at the time of the interview.

Appendix: Codes for missing values in SDR2

In the SDR database v.2 we identify different situations that warrant to be treated as missing data. Table A.1 lists all SDR2 missing value codes:

Table A.1. Codes for missing values in SDR2

SDR tag [a]	SPSS (STATA) codes	Label
		Standardized source codes for missing values
DK	-1 (.a)	Don't know
NA	-2 (.b)	No answer
REF	-3 (.c)	Refusal
DU	-4 (.d)	Don't understand the question
DNR	-5 (.e)	Any combination of DK, NA, REF, DU
INAP	-6 (.f)	Inapplicable
NEC	-7 (.g)	Not elsewhere classified
		SDR created codes for missing values
UNFIT	-8 (.h)	Source value does not fit to target
ERR	-9 (.i)	Errors in source data and undocumented source values
COMBI	-10 (.j)	Different missing codes on multiple sources taken for a target
CINAP	-11 (.k)	For control variables only: inapplicable
INSUF	-12 (.l)	For survey: Insufficiently defined response categories
QNA	-20 (.t)	For survey: Question not available

[a] Abbreviations for the labels corresponding to the SDR2 codes for missing values. These tags are used in the Crosswalk Table (CWT) files (Excel) that accompany documentation of SDR2 target variables.

In exceptional situations when codes for missing data listed in Table A.1 cannot be used, we apply a system missing <null> value.