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

1. General Information

The target T_MEMBER_ENVIRON measures respondents' current membership (i.e. at the time of the interview) in environmental organizations, groups, associations or movements. 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, environmental organizations, groups, associations or movements, and the value 0 when they are not members of, or do not belong to environmental organizations, groups associations or movements.

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

- The Detailed Variable Report (DVR) T_MEMBER_ENVIRON_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_ENVIRON_CWT_SDR2.xlsx. CWT Excel files in SDR2 contain details about mapping of source values to target values.

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

	Variable label	**Variable name**	**Variable values***
Target variable	Being a member or belonging to an environmental organization, group, association or movement at the time of the survey interview.	T_MEMBER_ENVIRON	1 = currently member 0 = currently not member
Source variables			See: T_MEMBER_ENVIRON _DVR_SDR2.xlsx. and T_MEMBER_ENVIRON _CWT_SDR2.xlsx.

* 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_ENVIRON appear in 8 international survey projects: CDCEE, CNEP, EB, EVS, ISSP, LB, LITS, WVS, 20 waves and 363 national surveys. The data cover 90 countries and years from 1977 to 2016.

3. General Rules and Procedures

3.1. Source data description

To construct the target variable T_MEMBER_ENVIRON, we use source items about respondents' self-reported membership in or belonging to environmental organizations, groups, associations or movements at the time of the survey. We rely on the English language and Spanish 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 appear on this list?*" (CDCEE/1-2) or "*Can you tell me whether you belong to any of organizations that I am going to read?*" (CNEP/3).

We define as 'environmental' those organizations described as ecological / environmental organizations / groups (e.g., CDCEE/1-2, CNEP/3, LITS/3); protection of nature, animals and environment (e.g., EVB/49, ESS/1; EVS/1).

Apart from the standard item formulation discussed above, different question wordings appear in the source data. Some surveys ask specifically about membership in any group whose main aim is "to preserve or protect the environment" (ISSP/2010); "groups for the protection of the countryside or the environment" (EB/8); "the nature protection associations", "the ecology movements"; and "movements concerned with stopping the construction or use of nuclear power plants" (EB/21, asked in Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands and Great Britain).

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'; 'belongs', 'does not belong'; 'mentioned', 'not mentioned' (e.g., CNEP/3, EB/8, WVS/1-6). Others enable respondents to also mark whether they are active or inactive members (e.g., LITS/3). Another type of answer options provides a choice between 'is a member', 'might join' or 'would not join' environmental movements (EB/21, EB/25, EB/31).

3.2. Rules of transformation of source variables into target variable

For ex-post harmonization, we select only those source variables that refer to respondents' membership or belonging to environmental organizations, groups, associations or movements at the time of the interview. We do not harmonize variables about past membership/belonging.

Generally, we code only information about respondents' current membership in/belonging to environmental organizations (see Section 1 and Table 1.1). However, in a few exceptional cases, information about membership in environmental organizations is mixed with information about membership in different organizations. Specifically, in CNEP/3 Taiwan we have an open-ended question ("Could you please tell me if you belong to any of the types of organizations?"). In this case, if respondents indicate membership in/belonging to environmental

organizations, we assign the value 1 to T_MEMBER_ENVIRON. If they refer to organizations other than environmental ones, we assign the value 0. We code information from EB/21, EB/25, EB/31 source questions as follows: for respondents who answer that they belong, we assign the target value 1; if they answer that they 'might join' or 'would not join' environmental movements, we assign the target 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.

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.