

Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) Module III

Core Questionnaire (2019-2023)

www.comparativecandidates.org

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Some questions are marked as OPTIONAL. Country teams may or may not include those questions depending on whether they make sense in their respective countries and if questionnaire space allows it.

Key:

{Categories to be coded, not shown in questionnaire}

[Notes for question]

Part A - Political Background and Activities

A1. What party did you stand for in this election?

[NOTE: national party codes as provided in Annex A_A1]

1 = party 1

...

19 = party 19

20 = other party

97 = no party

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A2. In what year did you become a member of this party?

0000=Never, I am not member of this party

[year, 4 digit]

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A3a. Did you stand for other parties in previous elections?

[NOTE: A3a and 3b OPTIONAL, only in countries with frequent party switching]

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A3b. *If so: which party or parties before your current party did you stand for?*

[NOTE: national party codes as provided in Annex A_A1]

A3b_1. *First party mentioned*

A3b_2. *Second party mentioned*

A3b_3. *Third party mentioned*

1 = party 1

...

19 = party 19

20 = other party

{-9 = no answer}

{-2 = not applicable [2 in A3a]}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A4. *In which years have you stood as a candidate for the [national parliament, lower house if two chambers] and have you been elected in those years? (Tick as many as apply)*

[NOTE: candidate and elected 3 previous elections and earlier, elections provided in A_A4]

A4a1: *Candidate in election [year [1]*

A4a2: *Candidate in election [year [2]*

A4a3: *Candidate in election [year [3]*

A4a4: *Candidate in election before year 3 [year [4]*

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A4b1: *Elected in election [year 1]*

A4b2: *Elected in election [year 2]*

A4b3: *Elected in election [year 3]*

A4b4: *Elected in election before year 3 [year 4]*

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A5. *Are you a member and involved in any of the organisations or associations listed below?*

[NOTE: This question should be in a table format where answers are given for each of the organisations. Additional organizations may be added by respondents and specified in the open answers A5_7 and A5_8. Response categories should be displayed on top of the table (member-not member, variables A5a1-A5a8).

1. Trade Union
2. Business Association
3. Religious Association (e.g. city mission, presbytery)
4. Environmental Association
5. Human and Civil Rights Association
6. Sports club

A5_7. Other 1, please specify: [open answer]

A5_8. Other 2, please specify: [open answer]

[Variable names for membership, not to be displayed]

A5a1 Member Trade Union

A5a2 Member Business Association

A5a3 Member Religious Association (e.g. city mission, presbytery)

A5a4 Member Environmental Association

A5a5 Member Human and Civil Rights Association

A5a6 Member Sports club

A5a7 Member Other 1, please specify: [open answer]

A5a8 Member Other 2, please specify: [open answer]

1 = member

2 = not member

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A6. Regarding your political experience, have you ever...

[NOTE: the terminology and levels of different public offices may need to be adapted according to country context, response categories apply for all variables]

A6a Worked as unpaid party/campaign volunteer

A6b Worked as paid party/campaign worker or MP employee

A6c Held local or regional party office

A6d Held national party office

A6e Been elected or appointed as mayor

A6f Been Member of local government

A6g Been Member of local parliament

A6h Been Member of regional government

A6i Been Member of regional parliament

A6j Been Member of European parliament

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}

{-2 = not applicable}

{-1 = Q not asked}

A7a1. Do you live in your constituency?

[NOTE: Only to ask if living in constituency is not mandatory]

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

A7a2. *If yes: since what year have you been living there:*

[year, 4 digit]
{-9 = no answer}
{-2 = not applicable [2 in A7a1]}
{-1 = Q not asked}

A8. *Outside of the election campaign, about how many hours, if any, do you usually devote to party activities in an average week?*

0 = no time
1 = 1-5 hours
2 = 6-10 hours
3 = 11-20 hours
4 = 21-30 hours
5 = 31-40 hours
6 = Over 40 hours

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

Part B - Campaigning

B1. Did any persons or groups particularly encourage you for presenting your candidacy, or was this decision the result of your personal initiative only?

1 = yes, I was encouraged
2 = no, it was my own initiative only

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B2. Was your recent nomination contested?

1 = yes
2 = no

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B2a. If yes, how contested was your nomination.

1= Very much contested
2= Moderately contested
3= Very little contested

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B3. Who was most influential in deciding on your candidacy nomination? (tick one box only)

1 = open primary election
2 = supporters of my party (primary election)
3 = party *members* in my constituency
4 = party *delegates* in my constituency
5 = party leadership in my constituency
6 = national party leadership

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B4a. Were any of the following activities part of your campaign? And if yes, how important were they?

[NOTE: Table format. Response categories for each of the following activities, add a line between "no" and importance scale]

B4a *Door-knocking, canvassing*
B4b *Distributing party campaign material*
B4c *Calling up voters on the phone*
B4d *Visiting businesses and social organisations*
B4e *Meetings with party elites/members and/or party groups*
B4f *Media activities (interviews, press releases)*
B4g *Public speeches and rallies*

B4h *Direct mailing*

0 = no, not used

Used and,
1 = little important
2 = somewhat important
3 = very important
4 = most important

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B4b. *Were any of the following activities part of your campaign? And if yes, how important were they?*

B4i *Personal ads (newspapers, radio spots, TV, movie houses)*
B4j *Personal flyers, posters or other campaign material (give-aways)*
B4k *Personal web-site or blog*
B4l *Mailing list to inform supporters and voters about the campaign*
B4m *Facebook*

B4m_1 *If used, please type your username/handle:* [open answer]
[NOTE: B4m_1 OPTIONAL]

B4n *SMS or other short message services (e.g. WhatsApp, Viber)*
B4o *YouTube channels*
B4p *Twitter*

B4p_1 *If used, please type your username/handle:* [open answer]
[NOTE: B4p_1 OPTIONAL]

0 = no, not used

Used and,
1 = little important
2 = somewhat important
3 = very important
4 = most important

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B4q_a *Other* [open answer]
B4q_b *Other* [open answer]

0 = no, not used

Used and,
1 = little important
2 = somewhat important
3 = very important
4 = most important

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B5. What was your primary aim during the campaign? Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means "to attract as much attention as possible for me as a candidate" and 10 means "to attract as much as possible attention for my party"? (Tick just one box.)

0 = 0 attention for candidate

...

10 = 10 attention for party

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

B6. Did you raise any local issues during your campaign?

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

B6a. If yes, what were the most important ones (max. three)?

[Note, please provide codes according to your country's coding scheme in Annex A_B6]

B6a_1. [open answer]

B6a_2. [open answer]

B6a_3. [open answer]

B7. How strongly did you emphasise each of the following in your campaign? (tick one box in each row.)

[NOTE: Response categories for each of the following activities]

B7a. Issues specific to your personal campaign

B7b. Providing services and practical help to people in the constituency

B7c. Advocating the policy demands of the voters in the constituency

B7d. Taking care of the socio-economic well-being of the constituency

B7e. Openness to the voters in the constituency and communicating with them extensively

B7f. Your personal characteristics and circumstances

B7g. Particular items on the party platform

1 = very much

2 = much

3 = somewhat

4 = not much

5 = not at all

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

B8. How many people worked for you in your personal campaign?

[NOTE: A filter question identifying candidates who ran a personal campaign is under revision by the Questionnaire Development Committee and may be added to the final version of the questionnaire]

B8a Total: [3 digit]

B8b Of which staff paid by your personal campaign: [3 digit]

B8c Of which volunteers: [3 digit]

B9. Did you employ any professional consultant in your personal campaign?

1 = yes

2 = no

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

B10. How much money did you spend for your personal campaign in [local currency] (including party funds, donations, and private funds)?

[6 digit] [local currency]

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

B10b. Campaign funds recoded in €, Converted according exchange rate at Election Day

[Note: This should NOT be asked, but the variable should be included by country team based on exchange rate on Election day]

[6 digit, [€]

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

B11. What portion of that sum came from the party, from donations, and from your own private funds (Total = 100%)?

[NOTE: For online surveys check that sum is 100% if possible]

B11a. party funds approx. [3 digit]%

B11b. donations approx. [3 digit]%

B11c. private funds approx. [3 digit]%

B12. Did members of national party leadership visit your constituency during the campaign?

[OPTIONAL question for countries where visits of national party leadership is common]

0 = no
1 = yes, once
2 = yes, more than once

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

B13. In the beginning of the campaign, how did you evaluate your chances to win a mandate?

1= I thought I could not win
2= I thought I could hardly win
3= I thought it was an open race
4= I thought I could hardly lose
5= I thought I could not lose

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

Part C - Issues and policies

C1. In your opinion, what are the two most important political problems facing [country] today? (Please write in)

[National specific coding schemes with four digits in English have to be provided into the Annex A_C1, possibly use same as in A_B6]

C1a. The most important problem is [open answer]

C1b. The second most important is [open answer]

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

C2. People hold different views on political issues. What do you think of the following? (tick one box in each row.)

[NOTE: Response categories for each of the following issues]

C2a. Immigrants should be required to adapt to the customs of [country].

C2b. Governments should abstain from intervening in the economy.

C2c. Stronger measures should be taken to protect the environment.

C2d. Same-sex marriages should be prohibited by law.

C2e. Women should be given preferential treatment when applying for jobs and promotions.

C2f. People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences.

C2g. Providing a stable network of social security should be the prime goal of government.

C2h. The government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels.

C2i. Immigrants are good for [country's] economy.

C2j. Women should be free to decide on matters of abortion.

1 = strongly agree

2 = agree

3 = neither agree nor disagree

4 = disagree

5 = strongly disagree

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

C3a. In politics, people sometimes talk about the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place your own views on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means the most left and 10 means the most right? (Tick just one box.)

0 = left

1 = 1

...

10 = right

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

C3b. Using the same scale, where would you place your party? (Tick just one box.)

0 = left
1 = 1
...
10 = right

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

C3c. Using the same scale again, where would you place your party's voters?

0 = left
1 = 1
...
10 = right

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

C4. Generally speaking, do you think that [country's] membership of the European Union is a good thing, a bad thing, or neither good nor bad? (tick one box only)

[NOTE: The following questions C4-C5 are only for EU member countries]

1 = a good thing
2 = a bad thing
3 = neither

{-9 = no answer}
{-2 = not applicable [country not member of the EU]}
{-1 = Q not asked}

C5. Some say European unification should be pushed further. Others say it already has gone too far. What is your opinion? (tick one box only)

0 = has already gone too far
1 = 1
...
9 = 9
10 = should be pushed further

{-9 = no answer}
{-2 = not applicable [country not member of the EU]}
{-1 = Q not asked}

Part D - Democracy and Representation

D1. On the whole are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in [country]?

- 1 = very satisfied
- 2 = fairly satisfied
- 3 = not very satisfied
- 4 = not at all satisfied

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

D2. All in all, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union?

- 1 = very satisfied
- 2 = fairly satisfied
- 3 = not very satisfied
- 4 = not at all satisfied

{-9 = no answer}
{-2 = not applicable [country not member of the EU]}

D3. Thinking about how elections in [country] work in practice, how well do you think they ensure that the views of MPs accurately reflect the views of voters?

[NOTE: OPTIONAL question]

- 1 = very well
- 2 = fairly well
- 3 = not very well
- 4 = not well at all

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

D4. There are different opinions about whom an elected member of parliament should primarily represent. In your view, how important is it for you to represent the following groups?

[NOTE: Response categories for each of the following issues]

- D4a. Own voters in the constituency*
- D4b. All citizens in the constituency*
- D4c. The party electorate at large*
- D4d. Members of specific social group (e.g. young or elderly people)*
- D4e. The [country] citizenry*

- 1 = very important
- 2 = rather important
- 3 = rather not important

4 = not important at all

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

D5. How should a Member of Parliament vote in parliament? (tick one box in each row.)

D5a. If the voters in his/her constituency have one opinion and his/her party takes a different opinion,

1 = MP should vote according to his/her party's opinion

2 = MP should vote according to his/her voters opinion

D5b. If his/her own opinion on an issue does not correspond with the opinion of the voters in his/her constituency?

1 = MP should vote according to his/her own opinion

2 = MP should vote according to his/her voters opinion

D5c. If his/her own opinion on an issue differ from the party's opinion?

1 = MP should vote according to his/her own opinion

2 = MP should vote according to his/her party's opinion

D6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements on democracy in [COUNTRY]? (tick one box in each row.)

[NOTE: Response categories for each of the following statements]

D6a Citizens have ample opportunity to participate in political decisions.

D6b Legislation reflects the interests of the majority of citizens

D6c Political parties are the essential link between citizens and the state.

D6d Special interests have too much influence on law making.

D6e Parliament, not voters, should make final decisions on law and policy.

D6f Citizens should be able to initiate a binding referendum.

D6g Referendums tend to be poorly thought out and make bad law.

D6h Our democracy is about to lose the trust of the citizens.

1 = strongly agree

2 = agree

3 = neither agree nor disagree

4 = disagree

5 = strongly disagree

{-9 = no answer}

{-1 = Q not asked}

Part E - Personal background

E1. Are you...

1 = male
2 = female

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E2. In what year were you born?

[four digit code]

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E3. Did you have [country] citizenship when you were born?

1 = yes
2 = no

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E3a. If no: What citizenship did you have when you were born?
[NOTE: See appendix A_E3 for country list]

[country, 3 digit code]

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E4. Do you live in a ...

1 = rural area or village?
2 = small or middle-sized town?
3 = suburb of a large town or city?
4 = large town or city?

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E5. What is your highest level of education (completed)?

[NOTE: CSES classification, please provide own classification and recoding into CSES classification in Annex A_6]

0= none
1= early childhood education
2= primary
3= lower secondary

4= upper secondary
5= post-secondary non-tertiary
6= short-cycle tertiary
7= Bachelor or equivalent
8= Master of equivalent
9= Doctoral or equivalent

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E6. What is your main employment status?

1 = self-employed
2 = employed full-time [32 hrs or more per week]
3 = employed part-time [15-32 hrs]
4 = employed part-time [less than 15 hrs]
5 = unemployed
6 = student, in school, vocational training, etc.
7 = retired
8 = MP
9 = other
 E6_1 If other, please specify [open answer]_____

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E7. What is your current [IF MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND/OR RETIRED: what was your former] occupation?

[ISCO 08 three digit code]

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E8. About how often do you attend religious services these days? (tick one box only)

1 = at least once a week
2 = 2 or 3 times a month
3 = once a month
4 = a number of times a year
5 = once a year
6 = less often
7 = never

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E9. What is your religious belief?

[Two digit code, use selection from A_E10]

E10. What is your current marital status? (tick one box only)

1 = married, living as married
2 = widowed
3 = divorced or separated
4 = single

{-9 = no answer}
{-1 = Q not asked}

E11. How many children do you have in your care younger than [national legal adult age]

Number of children (put 0: [allow two digit number])

E12. We have one last question for you: can you please, very briefly, indicate what "left" and "right" means in politics to you nowadays?

[NOTE: OPTIONAL question]

E15a: "Left" means: [open answer]
E15b: "Right" means: [open answer]