

Election Study Updates: Slovakia


Oľga Gyárfášová

Comenius University in Bratislava

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Election Study in Slovakia:

- No systematic, sustainable, infrastructural funding of electoral research
- No systematic interest of politicians (they are interested in surveys only before the elections), media (pre-election horse-race journalistic or exit-polls with limited variables), but low interest also on the side of academic community (electoral research lost between 2 domains – sociology and political science)
- On the other hand – high quality of social research, incl. public opinion surveys for academic objectives (Slovakia is part of EVS, ISSP, ESS international comparative studies)

Election Study in Slovakia:

- Only *ad hoc* projects:
 - 2010 – **CSES Modul 3** conducted shortly after the general/parliamentary election in June/July 2010 within a broader project funded by national science agency (APVV), what enabled to include also many country-specific questions
 - ☐ additional benefit: good interaction with the ELECDEM project (conference: *Free Elections 20 years after: the splendor and misery of the central European dream*; + post-doc fellow Ben Stanley published a paper based on CSES findings: Populism, nationalism, or national populism? An analysis of Slovak voting behavior at the 2010 parliamentary election. *Communist and Post-communist Studies*, 44(4), 257-270)
 - 2012 – early election, fund-raising failed
 - 2016 – we hope the 2010 model (funding from APVV) will be repeated

Election Study in Slovakia:

- More successful in European Election Studies:
 - 2004 – EES conducted thanks to support of the German foundations
 - 2009 – PIREDEU project (voters survey + candidates + party manifesto + media contents + contextual data)
 - 2014 – EES conducted across all EU28 countries

Substitutes:

- Institute for Public Affairs (non-profit, non-governmental public policy research think-tank in Bratislava) conducted smaller post-election surveys and published the „election books“ since 1998 covering broad spectrum of election-related issues
- Sociological institute SAV - pioneer work with electoral statistics data, including electronic database of parliamentary elections results in all Slovak municipalities from 1929



Archive

- Data from surveys are properly archived in Slovak archive of social data www.sasd.sav.sk
- Slovak and English version
- Up to 30 date files with complex documentation are available
- Surveys (Slovakia in international project + country specific studies) since 1990 until recently are at disposal for the research community and students

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Slovensky

Search the archive

Look in the [data catalogue](#) or try the [advanced search](#).

Introduction

The origin of SASD is connected with the year 2004. It was built within the frame of a state project of science and research "Social Data Archive and its Use in Cross-national Comparative Research" (enunciator - The Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS), project number: 2003 SP 51/028 09 00/028 09 07).

The establishment and servicing of the SASD was defined for the period from December 2003 until December 2005. Miroslav Tížik was acting as the head of the establishing team and Ján Bunčák, Martina Bausová and Roman Džambazovič as co-workers.

Institutionally, SASD originated at the Department of Sociology on the Faculty of Philosophy of the Comenius University in Bratislava, in cooperation with the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The Slovak Archive of Social Data archive arose out of the need to build a methodology of systematization, data processing together with documentation from empirical social research in electronic and printed form according to international standards. During the nineties, many researches was conducted in Slovakia, of which number, contents and focus we have no satisfactory overview. The services of SASD are intended for the non-commercial use of the general public, for the needs of socioscientific research, for journalists, and for governmental and non-governmental institutes. Hence the aim is not only archiving, but also an increase in the quality of public level information about life and changes within Slovak society. At the same time, the data archive is also intended for the commercial and other research agencies and institutions as a basis of communication with the public through the publication of their research according to the SASD conditions.

Contemporary and long-term goals of SASD

- to archive empirical data and documentation from accessible sociological research performed in Slovakia in electronic and printed form (ISSP data: National Identity 2003 and Citizenship 2004 form the basis of data archive)
- to create a data source for the requirements of secondary analysis in the field of sociological research and teaching on all types of university education
- to offer and make archive data and data in general accessible for the needs of scientific research, non-commercial subjects and individuals in electronic and printed form
- to increase the efficiency of work with the results of sociological research and as a result reduce the expenditure on research and for a standardization research procedures shorten the time of research execution
- to safeguard the protection of data and documentation against loss and corruption by means of electronic and printed form archiving
- to support the work with new technologies (PC, Internet, specialized software) in social sciences
- adaption of working methods and infrastructure for standards common in USA and in western Europe
- to enable the full participation of Slovakia in international sociological research
- to entrench in Slovakia the DDI (Data Documentation Initiative) standard of electronic research data archiving, which is compatible with world archives
- to create a technical and infrastructural basis for the foundation of national data services centre, which could become a member of [CESSDA](#) (Council of European Social Science Data Archives), [EDAN](#) (East European Archives Network) and other associations enabling the access to social data also of other countries
- to publish and make accessible the basic data from sociological research realised in Slovakia

Methodology

Most surveys use:

f2f interviewing

quota or random sampling

roughly 1000 respondents




- Polling agencies – international chains: TNS, GfK, local: FOCUS, MVK, Polis, Median
- Slovak Association of Research Agencies as a professional organization

Challenges ahead:

- Funding
- Quality of data
 - sampling (how to reach lowest and highest strata, emigration)
 - response rate (declining, aversion above all to political issues)
 - mode of interviewing (price vs. quality)
 - Comparability (mode effects, coding of open-ended questions and other constraints)
- Political context

Thanks for your attention.



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