

## **CSES Module 5 Planning Committee: *Subcommittee report***

# **Macro & District data**

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# Structure of report

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## 1. **Macro variables:**

- Recommend the addition of new variables.
- Advise on deletions/improvements of existing macro data.

## 2. Review **district-level data collection.**

## 3. **Macro report.**

## 4. Examine **data bridging** with other sources.

## 5. Explore **means of promoting** the macro & district data.

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# Macro variables



# Guiding principles in selecting variables for inclusion/deletion

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- To ensure collaborator burden where possible is minimized.
- Resources constraints of both collaborators & CSES Secretariat.
- CSES has high reputation for data quality. Exercise caution when adding variables form other sources.
- Caution with indices (black box, judgement call about indicators, etc.). Indices should be included only when we are confident about data sources/indices itself.
- Restraint with expert judgments. Recommend inclusion only if their added value is substantial.

# CSES M5 theme macro variables recommended for definite inclusion

VARIABLE	POTENTIAL SOURCES
Net migration rates	World Bank.
Population by citizenship (foreigners)	UN.
Linguistic Fractionalization	Alesina <i>et al.</i> 2003.
Religious Fractionalization	Alesina <i>et al.</i> 2003.
Ethnic Fractionalization	Alesina <i>et al.</i> 2003.
Polity Fragmentation Index	Polity IV; QoG.
Gini coefficient of equalized disposable income	OECD; World Bank.
Direct Democracy: Referendum Mandatory/Optional	ACE; Centre for Democracy.
Direct Democracy: Referendums by citizen initiative	ACE; Centre for Democracy.
Control of Corruption Index	QoG.
QOG EJ PS: Firms provide kickbacks to public servants	QoG.
QOG EJ PS: Public sect employees & how treat society	QoG.
QOG EJ PS: Treat cases impartially	QoG.
QOG EJ PS: Strive to implement policies to help citizens	QoG.
QOG EJ PS: Strive to follow rules	QoG.

# CSES general macro variables recommended for definite inclusion

VARIABLE	POTENTIAL SOURCES
Percentage of women in parliament (%)	IPU; World Bank.
Do parties receive direct/indirect public funding?	ACE.
Voting operations: Early/advance voting?	Macro report.
Voting operations: Vote by mail / postal?	Macro report.
Voting operations: Vote online/Internet?	Macro report.
Voter registration: Compulsory or not?	ACE.
Country subject to IMF conditionality at election?	IMF (MONA); Macro report.
Unemployment rates by age 15-24 years in %	World Bank.

# CSES general macro variables recommended for deletion

Source: Table 3 of report, p.9.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>CSES MODULE 4 VARIABLE</b>
General Govt. Expend. (%GDP) – T, T-1, T-2.	D5089
Health Expenditure (% GDP) – T, T-1, T-2.	D5091
Military Expenditure (% GDP) – T, T-1, T-2.	D5092

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# District Data review





# CSES District Data: overview

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**We recommend the retention of the district data for M5.**

Other issues:

- Addition of new variables.
- Addition of aggregate level measures of districts.
- Review current conventions of CSES district data.

# CSES district variables recommended for definite inclusion

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VARIABLE	POTENTIAL SOURCES
Seats won by each party in each district	NECs; CLEA.
Size of electorate (or population) in district	NECs; CLEA.

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# Addition of aggregate level district variables?

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- Devised a 4 Tier System – categorizing countries according to difficulty of obtaining additional SES data.
- With help of CSES Secretariat, an audit of the Tier 1 countries was conducted on a range of countries across different regions to see how easy/difficult collection of new SES measures at the district level would be (see Appendix B3).
- Tier 1 countries problems:
  - Language issues.
  - Data compatibility.
  - Timing of data collection
- **Recommend not to pursue this at this time.**

# Review of CSES conventions on district data collection

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“The data should indicate the respondent’s primary electoral district...The goal of this variable, wherever possible, is “the smallest unit for which there is to the national parliament.” (i.e.: the point at which votes are translated into seats).”

*For further detail on CSES conventions on district data – see appendix B1.*

## Issues:

- Multiple elections (e.g.: USA): Which data?
- Should countries that operate a national district be classified (e.g.: Israel, Netherlands, Serbia)?
- Sampling – all districts included or just those where we have respondents?

# CSES District Data: recommendations for future data collection

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- The CSES district data should be collected for the lower house election unless a compelling reason exists to the contrary.
- In mixed systems current CSES practice is retained that district data correspond to the constituency vote (as opposed to the list-PR vote).
- District data should be collected for countries that operate the electoral district at the national level (for e.g.: Israel, Netherlands, Serbia). However, we suggest that a distinction is made to identify those districts that operate at the subnational level.
- CSES Codebook should specify the type of election which electoral district variables refer to; Unit that electoral district variables refer to; total number of electoral districts in country (e.g.: Britain 650); total number for which CSES has data for.
- The CSES should provide a URL link/source to users where comprehensive district data can be accessed for the country.

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# Macro Report



# Macro report recommendations

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- We recommend retention of most of existing macro report.
- Clarifications to some questions.
- Some additional questions.
- Dropping requirement for collaborators to provide election results verbatim.
- Suggest that collaborators provide a source for district data.

# Proposed new questions

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1. Early/Advanced Voting.
2. Mail & Internet Voting.
3. Expert rating of populist parties.
4. Seek source for district data.



# Expert rating of populist parties

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As Module 5 focuses in part on populism, please indicate the degree to which each of the parties can be characterized as a populist party? Please use the same parties used in the CSES Module 5 respondent questionnaire and label them the same way (A-I). A definition of populism is provided below.

**DEFINITION:** *Populism can be defined as a thin-centered ideology that pits a virtuous and homogeneous people against a set of elites and dangerous ‘others’ who are depicted as depriving “the people” of their rights, values, prosperity, identity, and voice. The emphasis on anti-elite/ anti-establishment rhetoric and the contrast between the “pure people” and the “corrupt elite” are thus indications of the degree to which a party is populist. Populist parties can be found across the left-right ideological spectrum. (Mudde, 2007; Albertazzi and McDonnell, 2007)*

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all populist” and 10 is “very populist”, where would you place each of the parties in your country?

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Data  
bridging



# Data bridging

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- Bridging provides more possibilities for users and avoids CSES becoming a repository of everything.
- With help of CSES Secretariat, an audit of the World Bank, CLEA, ACE, UNESCO, and QoG databases (see Appendix D) was conducted.
- We recommend the inclusion of 2 additional polity identifiers:
  - Country name verbatim in English (E.g.: “AUSTRALIA”)
  - Country 3-letter ISO identifier (E.g.: “AUS”).

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# Promotion of data



# Promotion of macro/district data

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- Promotion of macro & district data through mail lists.
- Greater emphasis given to macro and district data on website.
- A potential special workshop on the macro and district data components of the project.
- Special journal issue targeting papers that make extensive use of the macro/district data.

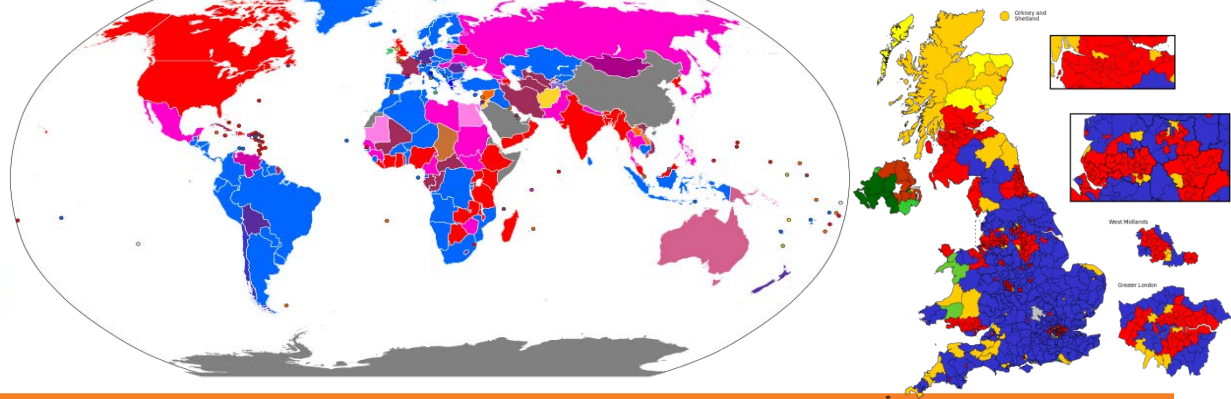
# Summary and points of discussion



# Synopsis of recommendations

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- Addition of net 15 new macro variables.
- Deletion of variables related to government spending.
- Retention of the district data with additional variables.
- Do not collect aggregate level measures of districts.
- Retention of most of existing macro report with minor clarifications & some additional questions.
- Addition of 2 new polity identifiers to enable data bridging.
- Promote macro/district data with a special issue.



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