

English version

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**The German Survey on Volunteering –
Der Deutsche Freiwilligensurvey 2009, 2004 and 1999**
User manual of the Scientific Use Files versions 3.2:
SUF FWS 2009, 3.2, SUF FWS 2004, 3.2 and SUF FWS
1999, 3.2

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1 THE GERMAN SURVEY ON VOLUNTEERING 2009, 2004 AND 1999

The German Survey on Volunteering (Deutscher Freiwilligensurvey – FWS) is a representative survey on volunteering of persons aged 14 and older in Germany. Voluntary activities and the willingness to volunteer have been surveyed in telephone interviews and can be reported among population groups and across regions. Volunteering persons and persons who do not or not volunteer anymore can be described. The survey is thus a basic instrument for social reporting on volunteering and is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend – BMFSFJ).

Data of the Survey on Volunteering have been recorded in 1999, 2004 2009 and 2014¹. For every wave a separate random sample was drawn, the data sets are thus cross-sectional. Until 2011, the survey was managed and conducted by TNS Infratest Sozialforschung (1999 Infratest Burke). Since the end of 2011, the scientific supervision lies with the German Centre of Gerontology (Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen – DZA). Interviews of the fourth wave were conducted by infas (Institut für angewandte Sozialwissenschaft) in 2014.

Data sets of the waves 1999, 2004 and 2009 have been edited by the DZA as Scientific Use Files and are available at the Research Data Centre of the DZA (Forschungsdatenzentrum – FDZ-DZA). The SUFs FWS 2009, FWS 2004 and FWS 1999 are each published as version 3.2 in the FDZ-DZA² to avoid confusion with earlier versions. This user manual gives an overview of these three data sets.

¹ There is a separate user manual of the SUF FWS 2014.

² <http://www.fdz-dza.de>

1.1 Contents of the Survey on Volunteering

In the Survey on Volunteering 2009, 2004 and 1999 information on the following topics has been recorded:³

- Activities and volunteering in general:
 - Public activities in 14 societal areas
 - Voluntary activities in 14 societal areas
 - Volunteering potential
 - Earlier volunteering
 - Most time-consuming voluntary activity
 - Organisational framework
 - Target groups and outline
 - Expenditure of time
 - Expense allowances
 - Motives and expectations
- Context of volunteering:
 - Characteristics of the organisation
 - Information and contact offices for volunteering
 - Information on the place of residence
 - External conditions
- Further characteristics of civic activity
 - Donations
 - Voluntary social year
 - Support in social network
 - Club membership (FWS 2009 only)
 - Political activity
- Further information about the person
 - Socio-demographic and socio-economic information
 - Migration background
 - Values
 - Religion
 - Expenditure of time (FWS 2009 only)

³ The survey instruments have been modified from wave to wave. They are published in Vogel and Gensicke (2013a; 2013b; 2014).

1.2 Design and sample of the Survey on Volunteering

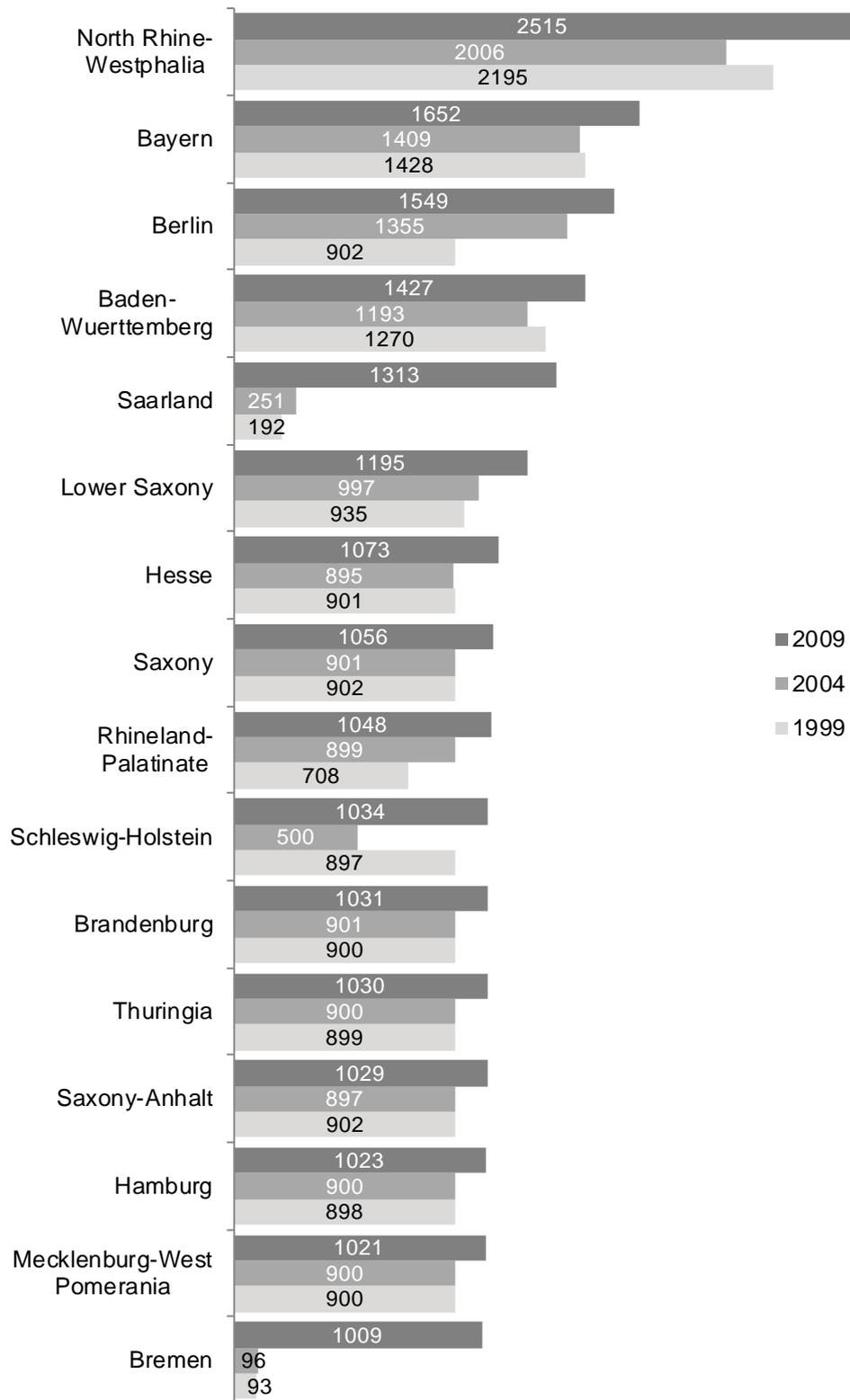
The sample is a representative landline random sample of the resident population in Germany aged 14 and older. The telephone interviews were conducted from late April to the end of July 2009, from late April to the mid of July 2004 and from early May to the end of July 1999. The interviews took around 20 minutes in average in 2009 (BMFSFJ, 2010a). There is no published information on the duration for the survey in 2004. In 1999, the interviews took 15 to 50 minutes (Rosenblatt, 2001a). According to the length of the survey instruments, the interviews in 2004 and 1999 have supposedly also lasted about 20 minutes on average. The interviews were conducted only in German and are thus representative for the German-speaking population of Germany.

The samples of all surveys have been stratified disproportionally according to the federal states (Laender) to achieve sufficient sample sizes for separate analyses of the states. In 1999, the least populated states Bremen and Saarland were excluded from this procedure (Bremen has been combined with Lower Saxony and the Saarland with Rhineland-Palatinate).

The sample of the FWS 2009 contains 20,005 interviews. In every federal state at least 1,000 respondents were surveyed. In the most populous states the number of interviews was respectively higher. In 2004, in total 15,000 persons were interviewed. As in 2009, additional cases were drawn for the sample of certain states. However, in other states comparatively few interviews were conducted (e.g. Saarland or Bremen) (Figure 1). In the Survey on Volunteering 1999 the sample consisted of 14,922 persons. The sampling frame of each survey year was created by the Random Digit Dialling method (1999 Random Last Digit method) according to ADM standard.

Further information can be found in the documentation material of the survey instruments (Vogel & Gensicke, 2013a; 2013b; 2014) and in the methodological reports of the Survey on Volunteering 2009, 2004 and 1999. They have been published in the respective main report (BMFSFJ, 2005; 2010; Rosenblatt, 2001a and 2001b) and can be downloaded here: www.fdz-dza.de (English → German Survey on Volunteering → FWS documentation).

Figure 1: Composition of the sample of the FWS 2009, 2004 and 1999



Source: BMFSFJ (2005;2010) and Rosenblatt (2001b). Own illustration.

1.3 Survey instruments

The survey contents have been changed only marginally between 1999 and 2009 (compare Section 7). The questionnaire has been split in different question blocks, which have been directed at all respondents (E, A, D) or solely at volunteering (B) or non-volunteering (C) persons. An overview can be found in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Interview process of the FWS 2009, FWS 2004 and FWS 1999.

Volunteers	Non-Volunteers
Question block E: Living situation, orientation questions	
Question block A: Voluntary activity, area	
Question block A Volunteering in general	Question block C Earlier volunteering and volunteering potential
Question block B1: Most time-consuming voluntary activity	
Question block B2 Second voluntary activity	
Question block D Information offices, demography, employment	

Source: Own illustration.

In the documentation of the survey instruments 2009, 2004 and 1999 the programming template including interviewer instructions, filter information and coding of the possible responses are given (Vogel & Gensicke, 2013a; 2013b; 2014 – also available in English). The documentation for the SUFs FWS 2009, 2004 and 1999 is available for download on the website of the FDZ-DZA: www.fdz-dza.de (English: German Survey on Volunteering → FWS-Dokumentation).

2 DATA FORMATS

The SUF FWS 2009, the SUF FWS 2004 and the SUF FWS 1999 are available in SPSS and in Stata data format. The data sets have been created on the level of persons, i. e. every persons is represented by one case. Upon request, registered data users can receive Stata and SPSS syntax to generate a data set on the activity level. Every voluntary activity is then represented by one case, persons with several activities have to be assigned to several cases accordingly (i. e., the data set is in long format).

All SUFs are available with German and English labels for variables and values: in SPSS-format, two individual files are provided, in Stata-format both label languages are included in a single data file. The Stata command *mlanguage {select|set} languagename* (*en* for English and *de* for German) selects between the language sets.

3 CLASSIFICATION OF VARIABLE NAMES

All SUFs contain two types of variables: Variables that refer directly to the questionnaire and external variables that have been added or generated by the survey agency or the FDZ-DZA (e. g. federal state, country of birth).

Only small letters are used for the names of the variables. All variables of the FWS 2009 start with the prefix "w3" (=wave three), the variables of the FWS 2004 with "w2" (wave two) and all variables of the FWS 1999 with "w1" (wave one).

Original variables (refer directly to questions in the questionnaire)

Variables that refer directly to questions in the questionnaire are named as follows: The prefix "w\$_"⁴ is followed by the name of the question block with an underscore: "e_", "a_", "b1_", "b2_", "c_", or "d_". Then the number of the questions follows (e. g. "02" or "13b") and the sub-number after an underscore if the answer options of a question with multiple answer options have been recorded in different variables (e. g. "_01").

⁴ In the following the \$-sign is used as dummy for the waves in the names of the variables occurring in several waves.

Example:

"w3_b1_31_03" →

wave three, question block B1, question 31, sub-question 3

External variables (added or generated)

External variables are characterised by a "speaking" name (German) after the prefix "w\$_" and are explained in "Generated and added variable".

Examples:

"w3_alter" → wave three, age

"w2_gebland" → wave two, country of birth

4 CLASSIFICATION OF MISSING VALUES CODES

Four separate missing value codes have been assigned consistently to all variables and used to differentiate the missing values of all data sets. These codes can be found in Table 1 and vary between data formats (Stata and SPSS).

Table 1: Missing Values Codes in the SUFs FWS 2009, FWS 2004 and FWS 1999

Stata	SPSS	Value Label	Comment
.a	-1	Refusal	The respondent has refused to answer the question.
.b	-2	Don't know	The respondent replied with "Don't know".
.c	-3	Does not apply	The respondent was not asked this question because it did not fit the situation of this person for reasons of content (filtered).
.d	-4	Deleted during data editing	This value was coded as missing in the course of data edition by the FDZ-DZA or Infratest (e.g. due to inconsistency).

5 DATA EDITING

In the course of the data editing several plausibility and consistency tests were carried out. Additionally, filter information was tested and sensitive areas were anonymised (see section 6. Editing of data to ensure factual anonymity).

5.1 Information on volunteering (Infratest)

Volunteering – Differentiation from other activities

Infratest has tested the plausibility of the volunteering variable for the waves from 1999 until 2009 (BMFSFJ, 2005; 2010; Rosenblatt, 2001b). With reference to the content, it was tested whether a named activity actually could be grouped as volunteering. The test aimed to rule out that the named activities were not voluntary activities, but that they were a) private help in the family, among friends or in the neighbourhood, b) activities or memberships without taking over voluntary activities, c) part-time or full-time occupational activities or d) activities at the workplace. If no clear judgement of the case based on the keywords recorded by the interviewers was possible, the respondents' categorisation was kept.

Volunteering area

All SUFs contain variables that represent the volunteering area.⁵ The variables "w\$a_03_01" to "w\$a_03_15" show if at least one voluntary activity is carried out in one or more of 14 (2009 and 2004) or 15 (1999) societal areas. In the variables "w\$b1_sek_\$" and "w\$b2_sek_\$", however, the volunteering area of the first (=B1) and the second (=B2) activity, which has been surveyed in detail, is given.

Infratest checked whether the categorisation of the voluntary activity as one of the 14 or 15 societal areas by the respondents was plausible. The following corrections have been conducted by Infratest.

"In checking the assignments made [by the participants] the following rule was applied: In doubt, the assignment by the participants applies. Only clearly wrong assignments were corrected after the interview. [...] The distribution of the activities within the 14 areas did not change significantly after the corrections."⁶ (BMFSFJ, 2010a, appendix p. 33).

⁵ In the first wave (1999) 15 societal areas were surveyed. However, participation in the area with code 11 „Economic self-help“ was so low that in the second (2004) and in the third (2009) wave only 14 areas were surveyed. The coding of the areas was however kept (in the waves two and three the area 11 is missing) to enable cross-sectional analyses.

⁶ Translation of German original.

While in 2009 17.7 per cent of the cases were recoded to other areas during the content review, this accounted for 4.6 per cent of the cases in 2004 (BMFSFJ, 2010a, S. 33; BMFSFJ, 2005, S. 425) and for 6 per cent in 1999 (Rosenblatt, 2001b, S. 216).

For 2009, in 83 cases information on the societal area of the most time-consuming activity ("w3_b1_sek_*") cannot be found in the general information on the societal areas of all voluntary activities of a person ("w3_a_03_01" to "w3_a_03_15"). For the area information of the second activity recorded ("w3_b2_sek_*"), this accounts for eight cases. However, as the FDZ-DZA wants to enable data users to replicate the statistics of several published reports and carry out follow-up analyses, we did not code this inconsistent information of the area variables for these 91 cases as missing. In the Survey on Volunteering 2004 and 1999 this information is consistent.

5.2 Testing for consistency in contents (FDZ-DZA)

The FDZ-DZA has tested the logical consistency of several combinations of the respondents' information. This included the variables for the age when the first voluntary activity was taken on ("w\$a_a_08") as well as the number of years the current activities have been carried out ("w3_b1_32" and "w3_b2_16" or "w2_b1_31" and "w2_b2_31" or "w1_b1_28" and "w1_b2_28"). The variables have been contrasted with the respondents' age and have been found plausible for all cases.

In the Survey on Volunteering 2009 the variables of the age of the youngest child in the household ("w3_e_14_01", "w3_e_14_02", "w3_e_15") were not consistent in 24 cases. In these cases the information on the person was coded as missing (".d") in all variables mentioned. In 2004, the age of the youngest to the third youngest pre-school child in the household was surveyed ("w2_e_15a*"): there were in total 31 cases with age information of "8" or "9" years that did not fit the information "pre-school children". Despite of this implausibility, this information was kept in its original specification.

Additionally, information on the hours of the voluntary activity (FWS 2009 only) and on the working hours were checked and found plausible.

5.3 Variables not included in the SUFs

The variable for the question A5 (area of the most time-consuming activity) has not been included in the SUFs because there were inconsistencies. Further, with "w\$a_b1_sek_*" there already is a variable on the area of the most time-consuming activity.

The open responses on the group, organisation or institution in which a voluntary activity is carried out, as well as the name of the task, function or work are not contained in the SUFs (A3, follow-up questions A and B). This plain text information could possibly enable conclusions about the identity of the respondents and thus is subject of anonymisation routines.

5.4 Changes between the versions 3.1 and 3.2

Comparing to the earlier 3.1 versions, the SUF FWS 2009, 2004 and 1999 (version 3.2) the FDZ-DZA carried out the following changes in the data sets:

- slight modification of certain variable and value labels
- addition of the weighting factor that included education
- provision of additional generated variables: gender; age group with four stages; employment status; Dummy: Federal states of the former East and the former West Germany
- slight modification of the generated variable “Education (w1)” (only SUF 1999)

6 EDITING OF DATA TO ENSURE FACTUAL ANONYMITY

In order to maintain the respondents' factual anonymity, information on certain variables has been edited by the FDZ-DZA (if possible by combining specifications, in all other cases by coding as missings). This affects information on:

- Year of birth and age
- Respondents' country of birth (2004 and 2009; for the parents: 2009 only)
- Year of migration to Germany (2004 and 2009)
- Number of years a voluntary activity has already been carried out
- Number of persons in the household
- Number of children in the household

The FDZ-DZA has additionally assigned random case numbers for the respondents ("w\$_idp") and deleted the case numbers originally assigned by Infratest.

Secure work stations for guest users have been set up at the DZA where analyses with the complete data sets including the anonymised, open responses can be carried out. If interested, please contact the user support of the FDZ-DZA: fdz@dza.de.

7 ORIGINAL VARIABLES FROM THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The information surveyed in the first three waves has been grouped into topics in Table 2. It gives an overview over the variable names of the surveyed contents in each wave. In variable names that have been marked with an asterisk (e. g. w3_a_10* and w2_a_10*), the wording of the questions and/or the answer categories differs slightly between the waves. For a complete overview over the variables and items including the value categories integrated in the available SUFs, the FDZ-DZA provides a variable correspondence list. It is available for download at www.fdz-dza.de (English → German Survey on Volunteering → FWS-Dokumentation).

Table 2: Original variables in the SUF FWS 2009, SUF FWS 2004 and in the SUF FWS 1999

	2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)
Information on volunteering			
<i>Volunteering in general</i>			
Activity in 14 (or 15) societal areas	w3_a_01	w2_a_01	w1_a_01*
Volunteering in 14 (or 15) societal areas	w3_a_03	w2_a_03	w1_a_03*
Time for all voluntary activities (hours per week)	w3_a_06	w2_a_06	w1_a_06*
Subjective importance and motives for volunteering	w3_a_09	w2_a_09	w1_a_09
	w3_a_10*	w2_a_10*	
Time for all voluntary activities (hours per week)	w3_d_01 and 04*	w2_d_01 to 05*	w1_d_01 to 04*
<i>Characteristics of the first activity (of the second activity)</i>			
Assignment of voluntary activity to an area	w3_b1_sek_1 (w3_b2_sek_1)	w2_b1_sek_1 (w2_b2_sek_1)	w1_b1_sek_2 (w1_b2_sek_2)*
Subjective description of the activity	w3_b1_00 (w3_b2_00)	w2_b1_00 (w2_b2_00)	w1_b1_00 (w1_b2_00)*
Target groups	w3_b1_01 (w3_b2_01)*	w2_b1_01 (w2_b2_01)*	w1_b1_01 (w1_b2_01)*
	w3_b1_01a*	w2_b1_02 (w2_b2_02)*	
	w3_b1_01b	w2_b1_02a (w2_b2_02a)	
	w3_b1_01c to 01d		
		w2_b1_02x (w2_b2_02x)	
Organisational framework	w3_b1_03 (w3_b2_03)*	w2_b1_03 (w2_b2_03)*	w1_b1_02 (w1_b2_02)*
	w3_b1_03a		
			w1_b1_02a to 04 (w1_b2_02a to 04)
	w3_b1_02a	w2_b1_02b (w2_b2_02b)	
	w3_b1_02c	w2_b1_02c (w2_b2_02c)	
Characteristics of the organisation the person volunteers in		w2_b1_04 to 05 (w2_b1_04 to 05)	
	w3_b1_06 to 07b	w2_b1_06 to 07b (w2_b2_06 to 07b)	

* These variables differ slightly in the FWS 1999, the FWS 2004 and the FWS 2009 in the wording of the question and/or the answer categories.

	2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)
Outline of voluntary activity	w3_b1_08	w2_b1_08 (w2_b2_08)	w1_b1_05 (w1_b2_05)
		w2_b1_09 (w2_b2_09)	w1_b1_07 (w1_b2_07)
			w1_b1_06 (w1_b2_06)
	w3_b1_10 (w3_b2_05)	w2_b1_10 (w2_b2_10)	w1_b1_08 (w1_b2_08)
			w1_b1_09 (w1_b2_09)
			w1_b1_32 (w1_b2_32)
Gaining and sharing knowledge			w1_b1_10 (w1_b2_10)
	w3_b1_11*	w2_b1_12 (w2_b2_12)*	w1_b1_11 (w1_b2_11)*
	w3_b1_12 to 13	w2_b1_13 to 13a (w2_b2_13 to 13a)	w1_b1_12 (w1_b2_12)
	w3_b1_14	w2_b1_16 (w2_b2_16)	
	w3_b1_15*	w2_b1_17 (w2_b2_17)*	
		w2_b1_14 (w2_b2_14)	w1_b1_13 (w1_b2_13)
	w3_b1_17*	w2_b1_15 (w2_b2_15)*	w1_b1_13a (w1_b2_13a)*
Expenditure of time for volunteering	w3_b1_18 (w3_b2_06)	w2_b1_19 (w2_b2_19)	w1_b1_15 (w1_b2_15)
		w2_b1_20 (w2_b2_20)	w1_b1_15a (w1_b2_15a)
	w3_b1_20 (w3_b2_08)	w2_b1_21 (w2_b2_21)	w1_b1_16 (w1_b2_16)
	w3_b1_21		w1_b1_17 (w1_b2_17)
	w3_b1_27 (w3_b2_17)	w2_b1_22 (w2_b2_22)	w1_b1_31 (w1_b2_31)
	w2_b1_32 (w3_b2_16)*	w2_b1_31 (w2_b2_31)*	w1_b1_29 (w1_b2_28)*
Expense allowances & payments	w3_b1_22 to 22a	w2_b1_23 to 24 (w2_b2_23 to 24)	w1_b1_18 to 18a (w1_b2_18 to 18a)
	w3_b1_23*	w2_b1_25*	w1_b1_19 (w1_b2_19)
	w3_b1_24 to 25		w1_b1_20 to 21 (w1_b2_20 to 21)
	w3_b1_26a to 26d		w1_b1_22a to 22c* (w1_b2_22a to 22c*)

	2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)
Relation to gainful employment	w3_b1_28 to 30a	w2_b1_26 to 28 (w2_b2_26 to 28)	w1_b1_23 to 24 (w1_b2_23 to 24)
Motives, impetus and expectations	w3_b1_31	w2_b1_29	w1_b1_25
	w3_b1_33 to 34c	w2_b1_32 to 33	w1_b1_29 to 30
	-	-	w1_b1_26
Support by school/university/employer	w3_b1_02b and 02d		
	w3_b1_35	w2_b1_36	
	w3_b1_35a	w2_b1_36a and w2_b1_36s	
Need for improvement regarding the conditions of volunteering	w3_b1_36 to 37*	w2_b1_34 to 35*	w1_b1_34 to 35*
<i>Interest in volunteering</i>			
Expanding volunteering	w3_a_07	w2_a_07	w1_a_07
			w1_b1_33 (w1_b2_33)
Taking up voluntary activity	w3_c_06	w2_c_07	w1_c_07
	w3_c_07 to 10		w1_c_08 bis 11
Expectations of potential voluntary activity	w3_c_12*		w1_c_12*
<i>Past volunteering</i>			
Age when voluntarily active for the first time	w3_a_08	w2_a_08	w1_a_08
Earlier volunteering	w3_c_01	w2_c_01	w1_c_01
			w1_c_02
Time of ending earlier voluntary activity		w2_c_03*	w1_c_03*
Evaluation of earlier volunteering	w3_c_03	w2_c_04	w1_c_04
Reasons for ending	w3_c_04*	w2_c_05 to 06*	w1_c_05 to 06*
<i>Other volunteering</i>			
Club membership	w3_e_13a to 13b		
Instrumental help for others	w3_e_23 to 23a*	w2_e_24 to 25*	w1_e_14 to 14a*
Political activity	w3_e_24 to 25	w2_e_31	w1_e_16
Donation/foundation	w3_d_29	w2_d_19	w1_d_17
	w3_d_29a to 29e*	w2_d_20 to 21*	w1_d_18a and 18b*
Voluntary social year/volunteer service/military or community service (Wehr-/Zivildienst)	w3_d_44 to 45	w2_d_28 to 29	w1_d_20 to 21
<i>No voluntary activity</i>			
Reasons not to volunteer			w1_c_13
Information about the person			
<i>Socio-demography, socio-economy, migration background</i>			
Sex	w3_e_01	w2_e_01	w1_e_01
Year of birth	w3_e_02	w2_e_02	w1_e_02

	2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)
Employment status; gainful employment; occupational status	w3_e_03*	w2_e_03*	w1_e_03*
	w3_e_03e to g		
	w3_d_05 to 06	w2_d_07 to 08	w1_d_05a to 06
		w2_d_09 to 10	w1_d_07 to 08
	w3_d_10	w2_d_12	w1_d_10
	w3_d_15*	w2_d_13a to 13e*	w1_d_11a to 11d*
		w2_d_14 to 15c	w1_d_13 to 13a
			w1_d_14
			w1_a_10 to 12

	2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)
Education; school; degree	w3_e_04 to 05*	w2_e_04 to 04a*	w1_e_04*
	w3_e_06	w2_e_04b	
	w3_e_07 to 08		
	w3_d_46	w2_d_30	w1_d_22*
Duration of regional affiliation	w3_e_09	w2_e_05	w1_e_05*
	w3_d_37	w2_d_26	
Living conditions and social network at place of residence; receiving instrumental help	w3_e_11	w2_e_07b	
		w2_e_07a	
	w3_e_12	w2_e_08	w1_e_07
	w3_e_22 to 22a	w2_e_22 to 23	w1_e_13 to 13a
Household constellation			w1_e_06
	w3_e_14 to 15		w1_e_10a*
		w2_e_10 to 12	w1_e_08 to 10
		w2_e_15 to 15a	
Subjective assessment of financial situation		w2_e_16 to 16a	
	w3_d_27	w2_d_17	w1_d_15
Monthly net household income		w2_d_18 to 18c*	w1_d_16 to 16c*
Citizenship	w3_d_31	w2_d_27	w1_d_19
	w3_d_32 to 33		
Born in Germany	w3_d_34	w2_d_23	
		w2_d_24	
Parents born in Germany	w3_d_38	w2_d_25	
<i>Values, religion, expenditure of time</i>			
Personal values	w3_d_47 to 48	w2_d_33	w1_d_23
Religious community; church affiliation	w3_e_30 to 32	w2_e_28 to 30	w1_e_15 to 15b*
Leisure time	w3_e_13c		
	w3_d_25 to 26		
Child care	w3_e_16 to 17	w2_e_13 to 14	w1_e_11
		w2_e_15b to 15c	
		w2_e_16b	
Nursing care	w3_e_18 to 21	w2_e_18 to 21	w1_e_12 to 12b
Scope for planning own leisure time	w3_d_23 to 24		

8 GENERATED AND ADDED VARIABLES

Several variables were generated or added to the SUFs (see Table 3) to make it easier to start working with the data. Upon request, registered users can receive the respective syntax files from the FDZ-DZA. In the following sections the variables will be explained shortly. The name of the institution (FDZ-DZA or Infratest) that has originally generated the variables can be found in brackets behind the headline.

Table 3: Generated and added variables in the SUFs FWS 2009, FWS 2004 and FWS 1999

2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)	Description of the variable	Institute
Identification of persons and activities				
w3_idp	w2_idp	w1_idp	Person identification	FDZ-DZA
w3_idt_b1 (w3_idt_b2)	w2_idt_b1 (w2_idt_b2)	w1_idt_b1 (w1_idt_b2)	Activity identification of the 1st voluntary activity (2nd voluntary activity)	FDZ-DZA
Weighting				
w3_pgew	w2_pgew	w1_pgew	Person weighting	Infratest
w3_pgew2	w2_pgew2	w1_pgew2	Person weighting (incl. education)	infas
w3_tgew_b1 (w3_tgew_b2)	w2_tgew_b1 (w2_tgew_b2)	w1_tgew_b1 (w1_tgew_b2)	Activity weighting of the 1st voluntary activity (2nd voluntary activity)	Infratest
Information on volunteering				
w3_eng	w2_eng	w1_eng	Volunteering: dummy	FDZ-DZA
w3_agrad	w2_agrad	w1_agrad	Degree of activity: not active – active – volunteering	FDZ-DZA
w3_anzber	w2_anzber	w1_anzber	Number of areas where participants volunteer	FDZ-DZA
w3_eint	w2_eint	w1_eint	Interest in volunteering	FDZ-DZA
Information on the person				
w3_alter	w2_alter	w1_alter	Age	FDZ-DZA
w3_altersgr	w2_altersgr	w1_altersgr	Age group in 13 categories	FDZ-DZA
w3_altgr4	w2_altgr4	w1_altgr4	Age group, 4-stage	FDZ-DZA

2009 (w3)	2004 (w2)	1999 (w1)	Description of the variable	Institute
w3_geschlecht	w2_ge- schlecht	w1_ge- schlecht	Gender	FDZ-DZA
w3_schulab	w2_schulab	w1_schulab	(School) Education	FDZ-DZA
w3_erwst	w2_erwst	w1_erwst	Employment status	FDZ-DZA
w3_erwt_d	w2_erwt_d	w1_erwt_d	Employment status, dummy	FDZ-DZA
	w2_hhgr	w1_hhgr	Household size: Number of persons	FDZ-DZA
	w2_hheink	w1_hheink	Monthly net household income	FDZ-DZA
w3_gebland	w2_gebland		Country of birth	FDZ-DZA
w3_gebland_elt, _mut, _vat			One parent's country of birth/mother's/ father's	FDZ-DZA
w3_gebreg	w2_gebreg		Birth region	FDZ-DZA
w3_gebreg_elt, _mut, _vat			One parent's birth region/ mother's/father's	FDZ-DZA
w3_migr			Migration background first generation	FDZ-DZA
Regional affiliation				
w3_bula	w2_bula	w1_bula	Federal state	Infratest
w3_ostwest	w2_ostwest	w1_ostwest	Dummy: Federal states of the former East and the former West Germany	FDZ-DZA
w3_bik		w1_bik	Regional size class as by BIK, district status of 2009	Infratest
w3_bbsr3			3 district types according to settlement structures of the BBSR, district status of 2008	Infratest
w3_bbsr4			4 district types according to settlement structures of the BBSR, district status of 2008	Infratest
w3_bbsr9			9 district types according to settlement structures of the BBSR, district status of 2008	Infratest

8.1 Identification of persons and activities (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_idp" and "w\$_idt"

The person ID "w\$_idp" ensures the clear designation of an interviewed person. It is a six-digit number: the first number shows the survey wave (SUF FWS 2009: "3", SUF FWS 2004: "2", SUF FWS 1999: "1"), the five following numbers represent the respondents. The variable "w\$_idp" has been assigned by the FDZ-DZA for the SUF 2009, 2004 and 1999 and are not congruent with the identification variables "idp" generated by Infratest.

Every voluntary activity is also assigned an ID and given in the variables "w\$_idt_b1" or "w\$_idt_b2". This variable has eight digits: The first six numbers are identical with the person-ID, but the last numbers show the ordinal number of the activity ("01" or "02").

Upon request, the FDZ-DZA provides a syntax to transfer the dataset on the person level into a dataset on the level of voluntary activities for registered data users. In this resulting long-format dataset there are up to two cases per person (because information of up to two activities per person were recorded).

8.2 Weighting (Infratest): "w\$_pgew", "w\$_tgew_b1", "w\$_tgew_b2"

Person weighting

Data have to be weighted to be able to calculate the volunteering indicators on the federal level. The weighting factor provided by Infratest "w\$_pgew" retrospectively adjusts the sample errors for all respondents according to federal state, BIK, sex and age group on the person level (BMFSFJ, 2005; 2010; Rosenblatt, 2001b).

The weighting factor „w\$_pgew2“ includes education additional to federal state, BIK, sex and age group on the person level and was provided by infas (Simonson, Hameister & Vogel 2017).

Activity weighting

Additionally there is a voluntary activity weight for the first and the second activity ("w\$_tgew_b1" and "w\$_tgew_b2"). It has been created by Infratest based on the person weight. For 2009 and 2004 the person weight was multiplied with 1 for the most time-consuming voluntary activity. For the activity weight of the second activity, the person weight has been multiplied with a factor between 2.18 and 2.91 in 2009. In 2004 the factor has been between 2.60 and 4.64. In the Survey on Volunteering 1999 the weighting for the first voluntary activity has been created newly by multiplication. For the first activity the factor was between 1 and 4.46, for the second surveyed activity between 3.53 and 5.04. This procedure

has been outlined in the methodological report of the FWS 2009 by Infratest (BMFSFJ, 2010a, Appendix p. 32ff.)

8.3 Information on volunteering

8.3.1 *Volunteering dummy and degree of activity (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_eng" and "w\$_agrad"*

Volunteering dummy

The volunteering dummy ("w\$_eng") has been generated from the question block A3 and shows whether the respondent volunteers (1) or does not volunteer (0) in at least one of the 14 (2009 and 2004) or 15 (1999) societal areas.

Degree of activity: Not active/not volunteering – active – volunteering

The variable "w\$_agrad" enables data users to reproduce the gradation of the activity degree given in the main reports. It has been created from the information on the activity (question block A1) and on the voluntary activity (question block A3) in 14 or 15 societal areas and differentiates between:

- (1) Not active or volunteering
- (2) Active
- (3) Volunteering

8.3.2 *Number of areas in which voluntary activity is carried out (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_anzber"*

The variable "w\$_anzber" represents the number of areas in which at least one voluntary activity is carried out. It has been generated from the variables of the question block A3 on the respondents' volunteering area.

8.3.3 *Interest in volunteering (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_eint"*

The variable on the interest for taking up or expanding a voluntary activity can be found in the variable "w\$_eint". The following information has been assigned to it:

- (1) Volunteering: Interest in expanding volunteering
- (2) Not volunteering: Interest in taking up a voluntary activity
- (3) Volunteering: Possible interest in expanding volunteering
- (4) Not volunteering: Possible interest in taking up a voluntary activity
- (5) Volunteering: No interest in expanding volunteering
- (6) Not volunteering: No interest in taking up a voluntary activity

8.4 Socio-demographic information

8.4.1 Age and age group (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_alter"; "w\$_altersgr" and "w\$_altgr4"

The year of birth has been recorded in the Survey on Volunteering. The variable "w\$_alter" contains age in the survey years difference between survey year and year of birth. The variable "w\$_altersgr" shows if the respondent belongs to one of 13 age groups (see Table 4). The variable „w\$_altgr4“ contains the four categories: „14 to 29 years“; „30 to 49 years “; „50 to 64 years“ and „65 years and above “.

Table 4: Age group code (upper row) and respective age range (lower row) in the SUFs FWS 2009, FWS 2004 and FWS 1999

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
14–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75 +

8.4.2 School Education (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_schulab"

In the FWS 2009, FWS 2004 and FWS 1999 it is recorded which highest school but not vocational degree the respondents have achieved. The vocational qualification can also not be deducted from the information on employment. Education can thus not be categorised equivalent to international indicators as the "International Standard Classification of Education" (ISCED) or the CASMIN classification ("Comparative Analysis of Social Mobility in Industrial Nations"; OECD, 1999; König, Lüttinger & Müller, 1988) because these require information on vocational qualification. Instead, the variable "w\$_schulab" comprises direct and indirect information on education which is the respondents' highest school qualification.

The following categories are used:

- (0) No degree yet, still in school
- (1) Low educational level
- (2) Medium educational level
- (3) High educational level

8.4.3 Employment status (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_erwt_d" and "w\$_erwt"

The variable "w\$_erwt_d" contains the information on the employment status. It categorises the information given by the respondents as dummy variable and sums up as follows:

- (0) Not employed (includes pupils, students, apprentices, unemployed persons, housewives and husbands, retired persons and pensioners, persons doing military or community service and others)
- (1) Employed.

The differentiated variable „w\$_erwst“ shows a detailed overview about the employment status:

- (1) Employed: Full-time job
- (2) Employed: Part-time job
- (3) Not employed: Registered unemployed
- (4) Not employed: Pensioner/retired person
- (5) Not employed: In school or training etc.
- (6) Not employed: Other reasons

8.4.4 Household size: Number of persons (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_hhgr"

The variable "w\$_hhgr" (FWS 2004 and FWS 1999) shows how many persons live in total in the respondent's household. It thus summarises the information whether the respondent lives alone in the household or how many persons (incl. the respondent) belong to the household. The measurement level of this generated variable is metric. A variable on the household size is not provided in the SUF FWS 2009 as it cannot be generated based on the same information.

8.4.5 Monthly net household income (FDZ-DZA): "w\$_hheink"

In the Survey on Volunteering 2004, the monthly net income of the complete household of all respondents has been recorded stepwise. For simpler usage the variable "w2_hheink" summarises this information and keeps the income boundaries as recorded in the questionnaire:

- (1) Up to 750 Euros
- (2) 751 to 1,500 Euros
- (3) 1,501 to 2,500 Euros
- (4) 2,501 to 4,000 Euros
- (5) 4,001 Euros and more.

In the SUF FWs 1999 the following categories of the income boundaries are comprised in the variable "w1_hheink":

- (1) Up to 1,500 DM
- (2) 1,501 to 3,000 DM
- (3) 3,001 to 5,000 DM
- (4) 5,001 to 8,000 DM
- (5) 8,001 DM and more.

For the interpretation of the results, it is important to note that the respondents report the cumulated income of all persons living in the household and not their individual income. The FDZ-DZA, however, refrains from calculating the equivalence income because the income information is only available in rough catego-

ries and the age information is known for some, but not all persons in the household. The generated variable "w\$_hhgr" can be used as indicator for the number of persons in the household.

8.4.6 Migration background (FDZ-DZA): "w3_migr", "w\$_gebland", "w\$_gebreg"

First generation migration background

The variable "w3_migr" in the SUF FWS 2009 shows whether the respondent (1) has a migration background of the first generation or not (0). The variable was generated based on the concept to identify persons with migration background of the Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2013):

Persons with a migration background of the first generation

- were not born in Germany
- and/or do not hold German citizenship or hold German citizenship, but not since birth
- moved after 1949. Immigration before 1950 will not be considered, because it has mainly been caused by flight and expulsion due to the Second World War.

The variable "w3_migr" depicts a narrow definition of the migration background that refers only to the migration background of the so-called first generation (own migration experience). The share of all persons with migration background is thus possibly underestimated.

The migration background of the second generation cannot be given reliably in the SUF FWS 2009. There is information on the parents' country of birth, but none on their nationality.

The SUF FWS 2004 and the SUF FWS 1999 contain no information whether the respondents hold the German nationality since birth. A variable on the migration background is not provided in the SUF FWS 2004 and the SUF FWS 1999 as it cannot be generated based on the same information as in the SUF FWS 2009.

Country of birth of the respondents, of one parent, of the mother and of the father

When the respondents or their parents were not born in Germany, in the Survey on Volunteering 2009, the country of birth has been recorded as open response. In 2004, only the respondents' country of birth was surveyed. The Survey on Volunteering 1999 contains no such information. The country-of-birth-variable has been modified for the SUFs by the FDZ-DZA: Among other things the writing of the named countries has been unified and implausible information has been coded as missing (e. g., when a city in Germany was named as country of birth).

The variable "w\$_gebland" contains the respondents' country of birth when they were born abroad.⁷ Additionally, it applies for the SUF FWS 2009: If only one parent was not born in Germany, there is no information if this is the mother or the father. The variable "w3_gebland_elt" refers to this parent, who was born abroad. When both parents were not born in Germany, the variables "w3_gebland_mut" and "w3_gebland_vat" contain the mother's and the father's countries of birth separately. In total, 132 countries have been differentiated and coded consistently, for all country-of-birth-variables (see Table 5).

For all country-of-birth-variables also historical names of states and political units, which do not exist anymore today, have been included according to the respondent's original information (e. g. "Silesia" or "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics"). This procedure has been chosen because not all geographical units could be matched with national states existing today or at the time of the interview, for example, they could be located in several successor states. There is a further limitation for the parents' country of birth: Because the year of birth was not recorded, it cannot be clearly identified if the named historical area belonged to Germany at that time (in the SUF FWS 2009).

Table 5: Country codes for the variables w\$_gebland (2009 and 2004), w3_gebland_elt, w3_gebland_mut, w3_gebland_vat (only 2009)

Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country
001	Egypt	040	Japan	079	Portugal
002	Ethiopia	041	Jordan	080	Prussia (until 1945)
003	Afghanistan	042	Yugoslavia (until 2003)	081	Moldavia
004	Albania	043	Cameroon	082	Romania
005	Algeria	044	Canada	083	Russia

⁷ In the Scientific Use Files only the anonymised country-of-birth-variables can be provided (see chapter 6). Accordingly many of the countries listed in the following cannot be identified singularly: when certain countries of birth have been named by less than 5 respondents, this information has been set to .d/-4 „Deleted during data edition“ during the anonymisation routines. However, the full information on the countries was used to assign the birth regions.

Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country
006	Angola	045	Kazakhstan	084	Saudi Arabia
007	Argentina	046	Kenya	085	Silesia (until 1945)
008	Armenia	047	Kirgizstan	086	Sweden
009	Australia	048	Colombia	087	Switzerland
010	Belgium	049	Congo	088	Serbia
201	Benin*	050	Kosovo	089	Sierra Leone
011	Bessarabia (until 1940)	051	Croatia	090	Zimbabwe
012	Bohemia (until 1918)	052	Cuba	091	Singapore
202	Bolivia*	053	Japan	092	Slovakia
013	Bosnia and Herzegovina	206	Laos*	093	Slovenia
014	Brazil	054	Latvia	211	Somalia*
015	Bulgaria	055	Lebanon	094	Spain
016	Chile	207	Libya*	095	Sri Lanka
017	China	056	Lithuania	096	Sudetenland (until 1945)
018	Costa Rica	057	Luxembourg	097	South Africa
019	Denmark	208	Madagascar*	098	South Korea
020	Dominican Republic	058	Malaysia	099	Syria
021	Ecuador	209	Mali*	100	Tadzhikistan
022	Eritrea	059	Morocco	101	Taiwan
023	Estonia	060	Macedonia	102	Tanzania
024	Finland	061	Mexico	103	Thailand
025	France	062	Mongolia	104	Togo
203	Gabon*	063	Montenegro	105	Czech Republic
026	Galicia (until 1918)	064	Mozambique	106	Czechoslovakia (until 1990)
027	Gambia	065	Namibia	107	Turkey
028	Georgia	210	New Zealand*	108	Tunisia
029	Ghana	066	Nicaragua	109	Turkmenistan
030	Greece	067	Netherlands	110	Uganda
031	Great Britain	068	Nigeria	111	Ukraine
204	Guatemala*	069	Norway	112	Hungary
032	Haiti	070	Austria	113	USSR (until 1991)

* Countries with the codes 201–212 were given in the Survey on Volunteering 2004 only

Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country
033	India	071	Austria-Hungary (until 1918)	114	Uruguay
034	Indonesia	072	Pakistan	115	Uzbekistan
035	Iraq	073	Panama	116	Venezuela
036	Iran	074	Papua New Guinea	117	USA
037	Ireland	075	Peru	118	Vietnam
205	Iceland*	076	Philippines	119	Belarus
038	Israel	077	Poland	212	Central African Republic*
039	Italy	078	Pomerania (until 1945)	120	Cyprus

Birth regions of the respondents, of one parent, the mother and the father

The variables "w\$_gebreg" (2009 and 2004), "w3_gebreg_elt", w3_gebreg_mut" and "w3_gebreg_vat" (2009) distinguish nine birth regions. In case only one parent was not born in Germany, there is no information whether this is the mother or the father. The variable "w3_gebreg_elt" refers to this parent. When both parents were born abroad, there is information on the mother ("w3_gebreg_mut") and the father ("w3_gebreg_vat")

The countries have been assigned according to the geographical regions and/or political units that can be found in Table 6. Countries that were named by especially many respondents (such as Poland) are listed separately. Also historical countries, which do not exist anymore, have been included in the regions as far as possible.

Table 6: Assignment of the countries of birth to the birth-regions- "w\$_gebreg", "w3_gebreg_elt", "w3_gebreg_mut" and "w3_gebreg_vat" in the SUFs FWS 2009 and 2004

Code	Value label	Country information
(1)	Europe: Poland (incl. Silesia, Pomerania, etc.)	Poland, Pomerania (until 1945), Prussia (until 1945), Silesia (until 1945)
(2)	Europe: Other East European countries without Poland	Albania, Bessarabia (until 1940), Bohemia (until 1918), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Galicia (until 1918), Yugoslavia (until 2003), Kosovo, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania,

Code	Value label	Country information
		Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sudetenland (until 1945), Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia (until 1990), Hungary
(3)	Europe: Southern Europe	Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus
(4)	Europe: Western/Northern Europe	Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland
(5)	CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States): Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
(6)	CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States): Others without Kazakhstan	Armenia, Georgia, Kirgizstan, Moldavia, Russia, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (until 1991), Uzbekistan, Belarus
(7)	Asia: Turkey	Turkey
(8)	Asia: Other Asian countries without Turkey/without CIS	Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, (Kurdistan)
(9)	Other countries	Egypt, Ethiopia, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Cameroon, Canada, Kenya, Columbia, Congo, Cuba, Laos, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, United States of America, Central African Republic.

8.5 Regional affiliation

8.5.1 Federal state (Infratest): "w\$_bula"

The variable "w\$_bula" describes the federal state where the respondents lived at the time of the interview (Table 7). The differentiation between East and West Berlin has been dismissed after the first wave.

Table 7: Differentiation of the federal states (w\$_bula) 1999, 2004 and 2009

Code	2009 (w3) / 2004 (w2)	Code	1999 (w1)
1	Schleswig-Holstein	1	Schleswig-Holstein
2	Hamburg	2	Hamburg
3	Lower Saxony	3	Lower Saxony
4	Bremen	4	Bremen
5	North Rhine-Westphalia	5	North Rhine-Westphalia
6	Hesse	6	Hesse
7	Rhineland-Palatinate	7	Rhineland-Palatinate
8	Baden-Wuerttemberg	8	Baden-Wuerttemberg
9	Bavaria	9	Bavaria
10	Saarland	10	Saarland
11	Berlin	0	West Berlin
		11	East Berlin
12	Brandenburg	12	Brandenburg
13	Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	13	Mecklenburg-West Pomerania
14	Saxony	14	Saxony
15	Saxony-Anhalt	15	Saxony-Anhalt
16	Thuringia	16	Thuringia

8.5.2 *Dummy: Federal states of the former East and the former West Germany (FDZ-DZA): „w\$_ostwest“*

The variable " w\$_ostwest " contains the information on the federal states and categorises them as dummy variable:

- (1) New Federal States including Berlin (included Berlin - or West -Berlin and East- Berlin in 1999; Brandenburg; Mecklenburg-West Pomerania; Saxony; Saxony-Anhalt; Thuringia)
- (2) Old Federal States (included Schleswig-Holstein; Hamburg; Lower Saxony; Bremen; North Rhine-Westphalia; Hesse; Rhineland-Palatinate; Baden-Wuerttemberg; Bavaria; Saarland)

8.5.3 *District types according to settlement structures of the BBSR, district status of 2008 (Infratest): "w3_bbsr9", "w3_bbsr4" and "w3_bbsr3"*

In the SUF FWS 2009, there are three different variables for the district types that are based on the BBSR categories (BBSR, 2011). They differentiate between "core cities" (cities with district status and more than 100,000 inhabitants) and other districts or regions with district status. The districts and these regions are classified according the population density and the wider local context.

The variable "w3_bbsr9" thus contains nine gradations: four different "agglomeration areas", three different "urbanised areas" as well as two different "rural areas". In the variable "w3_bbsr4" this categorisation is given and summarised as shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Overlap of the variable categories in w3_bbsr4 and w3_bbsr9 in the SUF FWS 2009

		w3_bbsr4			
		(1) Core cit- ies	(2) Densely populated hinterland	(3) Rural hin- terland	(4) Rural ar- eas
w3_bbsr9	(1) Agglomeration areas: Core cities	x			
	(2) Agglomeration areas: Very densely populated dis- tricts		x		
	(3) Agglomeration areas: Densely populated districts		x		
	(4) Agglomeration areas: Rural districts			x	
	(5) Urbanised areas: Core cities	x			
	(6) Urbanised areas: Densely populated districts		x		
	(7) Urbanised areas: Rural districts			x	
	(8) Rural areas: Densely populated rural districts				x
	(9) Rural areas: Less densely populated rural dis- tricts				x

In the variable "w3_bbsr3" the variable "w3_bbsr4" has been mirrored by summarising the last two categories in one category. It thus differentiates between:

- (1) Core cities
- (2) Densely populated hinterland
- (3) Rural hinterland/rural areas.

*8.5.4 Regional size classes according to BIK, district status of 2009 (Infratest):
"w\$_bik"*

The BIK regional size classes („w3_bik”; „w1_bik”) describe the regional classification according to the numeric population density (BIK, 2001). This information is available for 2009 and for 1999.

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