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The German Survey on Volunteering – Der Deutsche Freiwilligensurvey

User Manual SUF FWS 2019, Version 1.0

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1 THE GERMAN SURVEY ON VOLUNTEERING 2019

The German Survey on Volunteering (Deutscher Freiwilligensurvey, FWS) is a representative survey on volunteering in Germany, focused on persons aged 14 and above, funded by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (German: Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ). The Survey on Volunteering is the largest study on volunteering and holding honorary office in Germany. It offers a central basis upon which to provide social reporting on volunteering. Extent and context of volunteering, donations, the willingness to volunteer and their motives have been surveyed in telephone interviews. Data can be differentiated by social and regional characteristics.

Data of the Survey on Volunteering (FWS) have been surveyed every five years since 1999. The fifth wave took place in 2019. For every wave a separate random sample was drawn, therefore the data is cross-sectional. Until 2009, the survey was managed and conducted by TNS Infratest Sozialforschung (1999 Infratest Burke). Since December 2011 it has been scientifically managed and supervised by the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA). The interviews of the fourth and fifth waves were conducted by infas - Institute for Applied Social Sciences in 2014 and in 2019. Data sets of all waves have been edited by the DZA as Scientific Use Files and are available at the Research Data Centre of the DZA (Forschungsdatenzentrum – FDZ-DZA).

This user manual intends to facilitate working with the SUF “German Survey on Volunteering 2019” and could be useful to consult for all issues of data management. For usage of the firstfour waves we recommend the user manual 2009-2004-1999 (Hameister et al. 2019b) and the user manual 2014 (Hameister et al. 2019a)

1.1 Contents of the Survey on Volunteering

In the Survey on Volunteering 2019 information on the following topics has been surveyed:

- Activity and volunteering in general:
 - Activity in 14 societal areas
 - Volunteering in 14 societal areas
 - Volunteering potential
 - Previous volunteering
- Information on voluntary activity (in case of more than one voluntary activity: most time-consuming activity):
 - Organisational framework
 - Target groups and outline
 - Internet usage
 - Expenditure of time
 - Remuneration
 - Motives and expectations
- Context of volunteering (in case of more than one voluntary activity: most time-consuming activity):

- Characteristics of the organisation
- Information and contact offices for volunteering
- Information on the place of residence
- Regulatory framework
- Further civic activities:
 - Voluntary work with refugees or asylum seekers
 - Donation
 - Volunteer services
 - Support in social network
 - Association membership
 - Political activity
- Further information about the respondent:
 - Sociodemographic and socio-economic information
 - Migration background
 - Values and attitude to democracy
 - Life satisfaction und health
 - Religion

1.2 Design and sample of the German Survey on Volunteering

The FWS 2019 is based on a representative sample of the resident population in Germany aged 14 years and older. The computer assisted telephone interviews were conducted from March to November 2019. The sampling of the fifth wave was outlined as a dual-frame approach: about 70 per cent of the interviews were conducted by landline and 30 per cent by mobile phone. The sampling frames were generated using the Häder/Gabler-method according to ADM-standards. Details on sampling design, sampling frame and weighting can be found in the data and methods chapter of the main report “German Survey on Volunteering 2019” (Simonson et al. 2021c) as well as in the methodology report of the survey institute infas (Schiel et al. 2020). Both documents are available in German language only and can be downloaded here: www.fdz-dza.de (English → German Survey on Volunteering → FWS documentation)

The interviews, which varied greatly, lasted about 29 minutes on average, depending on persons’ volunteering or non-volunteering and in case of volunteering on the number of voluntary activities. The interviews were conducted mostly in German and if required it could be switched to foreign-language interviews in English, Arabic, Russian, Turkish or Polish, conducted by native speaker interviewers.

The samples have been stratified disproportionally according to the federal states (Bundesländer) to achieve sufficient sample sizes for separate analyses of the 16 states. The sample of the FWS 2019 contains 27,762 interviews. Figure 1 includes information on sample regarding gender, age groups and education relative to the overall resident population in Germany.

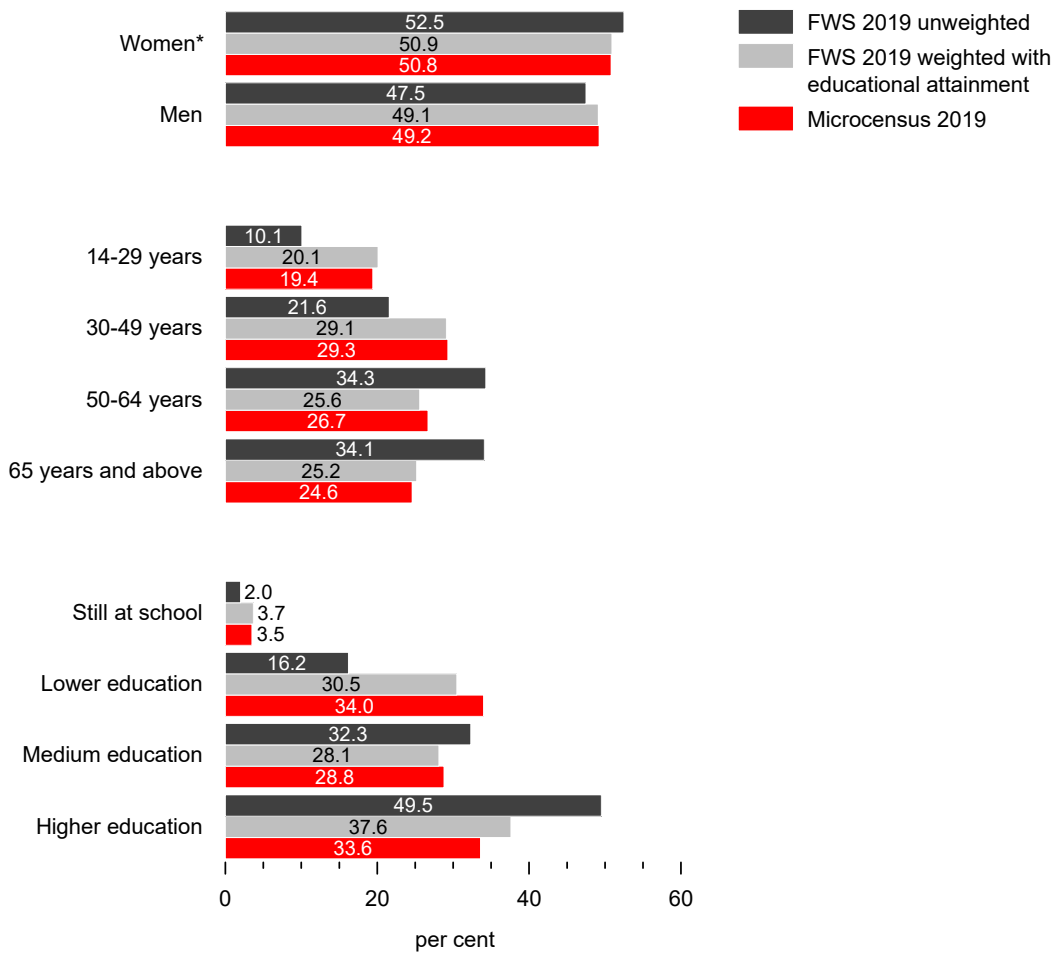


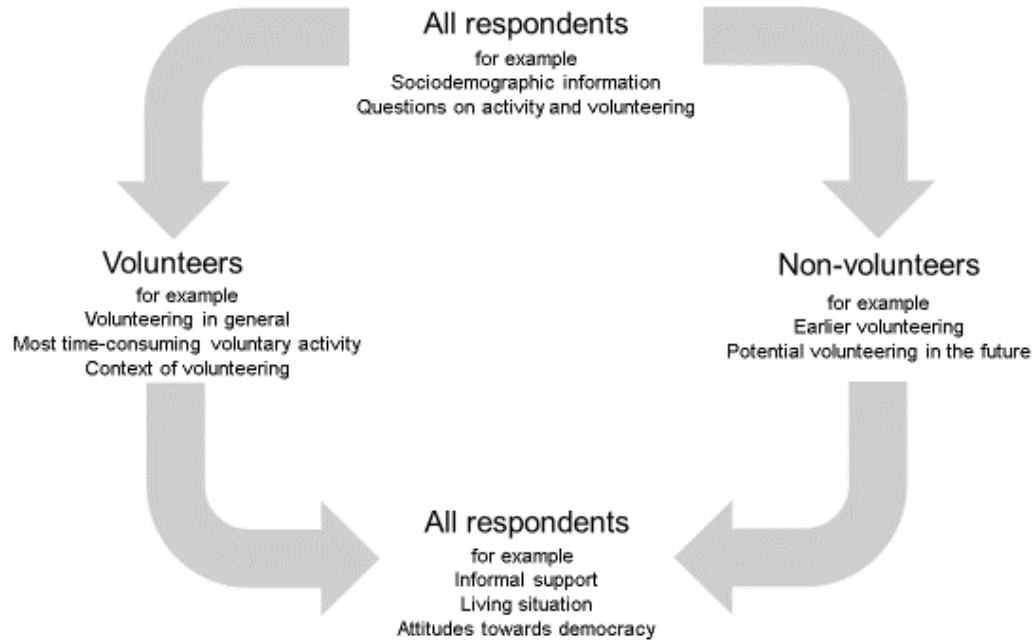
Figure 1: Composition of the Samples FWS 2019 by gender, age groups and education: Unweighted and weighted relative to Mikrocensus 2019

Source: own calculations and Statistisches Bundesamt Mikrozensus 2019: Forward projection of population status, 14 years (15 years or older for education information) (status: 31.12.2019). For the first time the “German Survey on Volunteering 2019” provided the possibility for respondents to identify their gender as “diverse” in addition to “female” and “male” (n = 3). For reasons of data protection, these respondents have been assigned to the category women (Simonson et al 2021c) and thus are not displayed separately in tables or figures.

Survey instrument

The questionnaire is split into several question sets which have been either directed at all respondents (100, 200, 600, 700, 800) or solely at volunteering (300, 400) or non-volunteering (500) respondents. Due to data protection the questions of set 800 are not included in the SUF FWS 2019. Figure 2 presents an overview of the interview process.

Figure 2: Interview process FWS 2019



Source: Own illustration.

Comprehensive information on survey content is provided in Table 2 in Section 4.1. The survey instrument 2019 including all questions, interviewer instructions, filter information and coding of the possible responses is documented in Kelle et al. 2021 and available for download on the FDZ-DZA-website: www.fdz-dza.de (English: “German Survey on Volunteering” → FWS-Docummentation).

2 DATA FORMAT AND CLASSIFICATIONS

2.1 Version 1.0

The SUF FWS 2019 contains nearly all the information collected in the German Survey on Volunteering 2019 (Deutscher Freiwilligensurvey 2019). Some variables were removed in the course of data preparation, either for pragmatic reasons (about several dozen placeholder variables in activities and volunteering), while others were deleted to preserve factual anonymity. More detailed information on these proceedings can be found in Chapter 3 “Data Editing”. The SUF of the “The German Survey on Volunteering 2019” replaces the SUF of the short report “The German Survey on Volunteering 2019” (Simonson et al. 2021b), which only contained a small selection of variables, in contrast to the variables now available.

2.2 Data format

The SUF FWS 2019 is available in SPSS and in Stata data format. The data sets have been created on respondents’ level, i.e. every person is represented by one case. Version 1.0 is 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.

2.3 Classification of variable names

The SUF FWS 2019 contains 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. country of birth, employment status or migration background).

Only small letters are used for the names of the variables. All variables of the FWS 2019 start with the prefix „w5_“ (wave five).

Original variables (refer directly to questions in the questionnaire)

Variables that refer directly to questions in the questionnaire are named as follows: The prefix „w5_“ is followed by the name of the three-digit question number (e.g. “402”) and if necessary with a sub-numeration after an underscore, if the answer options of a question with multiple answer options have been recorded in different variables (e. g. ”_03“). The first number of the three-digit question number always refers to the question set.

Example:

„w5_402_03“ → Wave 5, Set of question 400, question 402, sub-question 3

External variables (added or generated)

External variables are characterised by a “speaking” name (in German) after the prefix „w5_“ and are explained in detail in the section on generated and added variables.

Example:

„w5_alter“ → Wave 5, Alter (=age)

2.4 Classification of Missing Value Codes

Four separate missing value codes have been assigned consistently to all variables and used to differentiate the missing values of all data sets. Table 1 sums up missing values and their variation between data formats (Stata and SPSS).

Table 1: Missing Values-Codes in the SUF FWS 2019

Stata	SPSS	Value-Label	Comment
.a	-1	Refusal	The respondent refused to answer the question.
.b	-2	Do not know	The respondent did not know the answer.
.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 editing.

3 DATA EDITING

Data editing included several checks: the open-coded responses on volunteering were examined to assess whether the given activities contradicted the concept of “volunteering” or not. In addition, numerous plausibility and consistency tests were carried out, filter information was tested and sensitive responses were anonymised. The following section describes these checks in more detail.

3.1 Examination of self-assessment of volunteering

Open-coded questions to each voluntary activity were asked in the “Survey on Volunteering 2019”. Respondents described briefly in their own words the type of group or organisation, their task or job and the designation of the voluntary activity. Overall, there are open responses for 25,242 activities. In individual cases the respondents named activities that contradict the concept of the Enquete-Commission on the Future of Civic Engagement (Deutscher Bundestag 2002). Following independent examinations by two FWS project team members, in these cases the respondents’ status was recoded as ‘non-volunteering’. In several cases a respondent initially reported more than one voluntary activity and at least one of the given activities has passed the project team examination, so the respondent kept the status of volunteer in the corresponding variables.

The main principle in the examination process was that the self-assessment of the respondent has priority. The activity status as voluntary was maintained if the open responses were equivocal or missing, for example if a person was not willing to give further information about the activity. The specific test criteria for the assessment that an activity was not voluntary were:

- The activity is professional or paid for:
indications for remuneration (e.g. ‘paid training as elderly care personal’) or as vocational preparation (e.g. ‘internship’).

- The activity takes place within working hours:
activities that apply to internal tasks (e.g. ‘employee representative’, ‘staff council representative’, ‘conflict management’, ‘first-aid attendant in school’),

However, private tuition for trainees at the weekend (internal activities outside working hours) and position of lay assessor in court (external activity that is possibly practised within working hours) were assessed as volunteering.

- The activity takes place exclusively within family or among friends:
non-public activities for family members or members of personal circle of friends (e.g. ‘take care of my mother’, ‘take care of a friends’ child’).

However, privately organised activities that are addressed to a larger group of people (e.g. 'neighbourhood assistance') were assessed as volunteering.

- The activity is a hobby without co-operative team character:

leisure time activities, exercised without additional tasks (characterised with terms like 'instruction', 'organisation', 'assistance') or take place on one's own (e.g. 'take care of my garden' or on a loose group without team character.

- The activity is a passive membership:

passive membership (e.g. 'member of the association', 'pay the fee') without taking on duties. However, membership in self-help groups was assessed as volunteering because passive membership seems unlikely.

- Donation:

Monetary or blood (-plasma) donation (e.g. 'sponsor', 'blood donor') if it is not a task which enables the acquisition and organisation of donation (like 'catering of blood donors' or 'fundraising'). Sponsorship of children were assessed as volunteering.

Overall, after testing 155 respondents were recoded from "volunteering" to "not volunteering". In these 155 cases the information about volunteering was coded as missing (".d" or "-4": "Deleted during data editing"). This relates to the set of questions 300 about volunteering and the set of questions 400 about the (most time-consuming) voluntary activity.

In further 104 cases with more than one voluntary activities only the most time-consuming voluntary activity was recoded as "non-volunteering", but not all of their further voluntary activities. In these cases only the set of questions 400 about the most time-consuming voluntary activity was coded as missing ".d" or "-4". In the set of questions 300 (volunteering in general) the valid data remained unchanged, and these respondents also kept their "volunteering" status.

A detailed description of the correction process, including a comparison with the former waves of the German Survey on Volunteering, is presented in the Chapter "Data and Methods" in the main report about the "German Survey on Volunteering 2019" (Simonson et al 2019a), which can be downloaded here: www.fdz-dza.de (English: "German Survey on Volunteering" → FWS-Dokumentation– only available in German).

3.2 Testing for plausibility and consistency in contents

The FDZ-DZA has tested the plausibility of single information and the logical consistency of several combinations of the respondents' information.

Values in certain variables were changed if they were implausible:

- The maximum of the weekly working time („w5_126“) was determined at 80 hours a week. Working hours exceeding this maximum were cut off at 80 hours.
- The duration of living at current residence („w5_142_a“ and „w5_142_b“) was examined with regard to its plausibility in context with age. In two cases the duration of living at current residence exceeded the respondents' age by more than one year. In these cases the duration of living at current residence was recoded to the respondents' ages.
- The minimum age of first time volunteering („w5_302“, „w5_503“) was set at 6 years in line with the procedure in the previous waves and this minimum age was set to “6“ in the appropriate variables in 80 respectively in 18 cases.
- None of the respondents stated a higher biographical duration of the current volunteering („w5_430“) than their current age. 23 respondents stated that they have begun their current voluntary activity at an age below six. In these cases the biographical duration of the current volunteering was recoded as age minus six years.
- The amount of time in hours per year spent for voluntary activities („w5_eng_std_ges“, „w5_eng_std_zeitaufw“) and for all forms of informal support, excluding nursing care („w5_std_iul_kind“, „w5_std_iul_hilfe“), was assigned a maximum value of 4160 hours per year (80 hours a week*52 weeks). The maximum amount of time in hours in case of nursing care („w5_iul_std_pflege“) and informal support in general („w5_iul_std_ges“) were limited to 8760 hours per year (24 hours a day*365 days). Higher scores were recoded to the respectively specified maximum value.

Other variables that contain plausible but were not recoded because a potential measurement error cannot be precisely pinned down.

- The information of employed respondents in the categorical classification of full-time or part-time or marginal employment („w5_114“) in some cases does not fit the metric information of weekly working hours („w5_126“). 390 respondents stating full-time employment reported less than 35 hours a week of working time later in the interview process. Vice versa, other respondents indicating an employment status of part-time or marginal reported to work more than 35 hours a week. This inconsistency is reflected partially in the generated variable „w5_erwst“ which assumes the categorical information for the differentiation between full-time and part-time employment primary from „w5_114“ to be true and only in case of missing values reverts to the metric variable on weekly working hours „w5_126“.

- Furthermore, the cumulated hours of volunteering per year („w5_std_eng_ges“), informal support („w5_std_iul_ges“) and employment („w5_126“) are noticeably high for some respondents and in some cases even exceed the total available hours per year.
- Also some of the respondents with more than one volunteering activity, report more hours for their most time-consuming activity („w5_std_eng_zeitaufw“) than for all voluntary activities (including their most time-consuming one) in total („w5_std_eng_ges“).

Data users should carefully check for these and potentially further inconsistencies before starting their analyses.

3.3 Editing of data to ensure factual anonymity

In order to maintain respondents' factual anonymity, information on certain variables has been edited if a value or category has less than five. For metric variables, maximum or minimum values were recoded into categories, for categorical variables missing values “.d“ or “-4“ (“Deleted during data editing“) were assigned. The following SUF variables have been checked and partially recoded:

- Age („w5_alter“)
- Respondents' country of birth and for their parents („w5_gebland“, „w5_gebland_mut“, „w5_gebland_vat“)
- Age of migration to Germany („w5_105“)
- Number of persons in the household („w5_106“)
- Age of children in the household („w5_108**“)
- Weekly working hours („w5_126“)
- Duration of living at current residence („w5_142**“)
- Volunteered for the first time at the age of („w5_302“, „w5_503“)
- Number of years exercising the voluntary activity („w5_430“)

3.4 Changes between SUF FWS 2019 and SUF FWS 2014

In the SUF FWS 2019, version 1.0, small changes were made to variables for various reasons:

- In variable „w5_435_3“ (‘improvements would be important in the recognition of the activity by full-time employees in the organisation‘), some cases were assigned to an additional missing value code ‘does not apply, no full-time employees‘ in the course of the interview process. These cases were later recoded to “no” to allow for higher comparability with the other six items in this item block.

- As for the variables related to the amount of income („w5_616”) and to the amount of donated money („w5_715”), extremely high figures were given by some respondents. For both variables, any amount above 1.000.000 Euro was summarised into a “cut-off-category” „1.000.000 Euro and more”.
- For „w5_430” and „w5_eng_jahre” (‘number of years in the current voluntary activity’), the value 0.5 reads as ‘less than one year’.
- Variables with several decimal places are limited to two digits after the comma in the display format (not rounded).

4 VARIABLES IN THE SURVEY

4.1 Overview of original and added variables

The information surveyed in the FWS 2019 has been grouped into topics – see Table 2. It gives an overview of the variable names of the surveyed contents. For a complete overview of variables and items including the value categories integrated in the available SUFs of all FWS waves, 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).

Several variables were generated or added to the SUFs (see Table 2) to facilitate working with the data. Users can receive syntax files for these variables (marked with an asterisk): www.fdz-dza.de (English: German Survey on Volunteering → FWS-Dokumentation). In the following sections the variables will be explained briefly.

Table 2: Variables in the SUF FWS 2019

Description	Original variables	Generated / added variables
Technical Variables (all)		
ID-number of the respondent		w5_idp
Weighting factor		w5_pgew
Weighting factor incl. adjustment for educational level		w5_pgew2
Weighting factor for regional analyses incl. adjustment for educational level		w5_pgew3
Extrapolation factor		w5_hoch
Extrapolation factor incl. adjustment for educational level		w5_hoch2
Extrapolation factor for regional analyses incl. adjustment for educational level		w5_hoch3
Regional indicators		w5_bula w5_ostwest* w5_gkbik10 w5_bbsr_regtyp w5_bbsr_krstyp w5_bbsr_diffregtyp
Interview language	w5_sprache w5_intsprache	
Subsample (mobile phone, landline)	w5_teilstp	
Age		w5_alter w5_altgr4* w5_altgr15*

Set of questions 100: Personal details (all)		
Sociodemographic information	w5_105	w5_geschlecht w5_gebland w5_gebreg w5_ged_dt
Household constellation	w5_106-109	w5_hkons*
Marital status	w5_110-112	
Employment status	w5_113- w5_115	w5_erwst* w5_erwt_d*
School attendance	w5_117-118	
Educational level	w5_119-125	w5_schulab* w5_isced* w5_isced3*
Employment and professional position	w5_126-128	w5_erwst* w5_erwt_d*
Migration background I	w5_129-132	w5_mig_destatis* w5_migstatus_d*
Military service and volunteering service	w5_133-136	w5_fd_\$\$*
Social network	w5_138	
Religion	w5_139-141	w5_religion*
Duration of residence and cohesion in the residential area	w5_142_a-b w5_143	w5_wohnd_
Club membership	w5_144	
Political activity	w5_145	w5_polpart* w5_polpartint*
Set of questions 200: Activity and volunteering query (all)		
Activity in 14 societal areas	w5_201	
Volunteering in 14 societal areas		w5_anz_eng w5_engbereich_\$ w5_anz_taet_ber_\$ w5_aktiv* w5_eng* w5_agrad* w5_eng_status
Set of questions 300: Volunteering in general (Volunteers)		
Volunteering work with refugees / asylum seekers in the past five years	w5_301	w5_eng_gefl_d* w5_eng_gefl_st*
The minimum age of first time volunteering	w5_302	
Motives for volunteering in general	w5_303	
Time spent for volunteering in general	w5_304-306	
Selection of most time-consuming voluntary activity		w5_ber_zeitaufw
Set of questions 400: The most time-consuming voluntary activity (Volunteers)		

Geographical reference and target groups	w5_401-404	w5_zgr_gefl*
Characteristics of the organisation	w5_405-409	w5_orgramm* w5_orgramm_all*
Outline of voluntary activity	w5_410-412	
Gaining and sharing knowledge	w5_413-414	
Internet usage for volunteering activity	w5_415-417	
Participation in further training	w5_418	
Time spent for volunteering activity	w5_419-420 w5_430	w5_std_eng_zeitaufw*
Costs, reimbursement and payments	w5_421-429	w5_verguetung*
Motives	w5_431-432	
Impetus	w5_433-434	
Suggestions for improvements	w5_435-436	
Set of questions 500: Previous volunteering and volunteering potential (Non-volunteers)		
Previous volunteering	w5_501 w5_503	
Previous voluntary work for refugees /asylum seekers	w5_502	w5_eng_gefl_st* w5_eng_gefl_d*
Reasons for termination	w5_504	
Impediments	w5_505	
Volunteering potential	w5_506	
Set of questions 600: Informal support and donation (all)		
Informal support in general		w5_iul* w5_iul_std_ges* w5_iul_nfb* w5_iul_nfb_kind* w5_iul_nfb_pflege* w5_iul_nfb_hilfe*
Child care	w5_601-604	w5_iul_kind* w5_iul_std_kind*
Nursing care and legal guardianship	w5_605-612	w5_iul_pflege* w5_iul_std_pflege*
Instrumental support	w5_611-614	w5_iul_hilfe* w5_iul_std_hilfe*
Donations	w5_615-618	w5_geldspende*
Set of questions 700: Living situation, personal details (all)		
Parental volunteering	w5_701	
Migration background II	w5_702 w5_707-708	w5_gebland_mut w5_gebland_vat w5_gebreg_mut* w5_gebreg_vat* w5_mig_\$*
Integration	w5_709 w5_711	
Health	w5_710	
Values and attitude to democracy	w5_712-713	

Financial situation	w5_714-716	w5_hheink*
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* Registered data users can download the Stata syntax for the generation of these variables.

4.2 Generated variables for further information about the person

For most of the following generated variables the syntax is available online (for registered users only) The following pages describe a number of original variables of The “German Survey on Volunteering 2019”, referring directly to the questionnaire The complete questionnaire including questions, items, answering options, filters and instructions for interviewers is provided as the Research Instrument and can be downloaded on the FWS documentation site: www.fdz-dza.de -> German Survey on Volunteering -> FWS documentation.

ID-number of the respondent: w5_idp

The identification number „w5_idp” ensures the clear identification of each respondent. Within the six-digit number, the first digit represents the survey wave (SUF FWS 2019: „5“), the five following digits represent the respondents. The ID-number was assigned randomly after all interviews have been collected..

Weighting: w5_pgew, w5_pgew2 and w5_pgew3

To calculate volunteering indicators on the federal level, data need to be weighted. The weighting factor provided by infas, „w5_pgew\$”, retrospectively adjusts for sample errors for all respondents according to the selection probability and is used throughout all “official” FWS reports until and including survey year 2014. The following factors are included to determine selection probability: number of target persons in the household 14 years old and above, number of landline and mobile numbers and subsample (base sample landline, reinforcement sample landline and mobile sample). Gender, age groups, federal state and BIK (regional size classes) were considered to reach harmonisation to the total population residing in private households in Germany from age 14 upwards. The alternative weighting factors „w5_pgew2“ and „w5_pgew3” additionally take the distribution of educational levels of the total population into account.

The Research Data Centre (DZA-FDZ) recommends with the use of „w5_pgew2” for most analyses because it adjusts for the educational sampling bias”. For comparison of results with previously published numbers from the first four FWS waves, „w5_pgew” should be used. For regional analyses, e.g. Bundesland-specific analyses or those which include regional types or community size, „w5_pgew3” is the correct choice: it adjusts for the non-random missing cases when respondents did not consent to linking their interview data to regional indicators.

A more detailed description of the weighting procedure can be found in the chapter “Data and Methods” of the main report (Simonson et al. 2021a), which can be downloaded here: www.fdz-

dza.de (English: German Survey on Volunteering → FWS-Dokumentation – available only in German).

Extrapolation factors: w5_hoch, w5_hoch2 und w5_hoch

With the aid of extrapolation factors the distribution in the survey sample to the population, e.g. all persons from age 14 upwards in private households, can be multiplied. Each respondent in the “German Survey on Volunteering” represents a few thousand persons of the population. The extrapolation factor indicates this multiplier weighted, thus results on population level can be calculated. This weighting is congruent to the weighting of persons „w5_pgew” (for comparison of the results of the first four waves), „w5_pgew2 (for most analysis) and „w5_pgew3” (only for analysis with regional reference (under federal state level).

Regional indicators: „w5_bula”, „w5_ostwest”, „w5_gkbik”, „w5_bbsr_stadtland”, „w5_bbsr_krstyp”, „w5_bbsr_regtyp”

The variable „w5_bula” describes the federal state where the respondents lives at the time of the interview. The variable „w5_ostwest“ contains information on whether the respondent lives in Eastern or Western Germany (Berlin is coded as Eastern Germany). The infas variable „w5_gkbik” provides information about the categorized population in the BIK-regions, where the respondent lives in, The BIK-regions integrate the city environs relationship on community level for metropolitan areas, urban regions, middle and subcentres (Behrens & Wiese 2013: 105-120).

The regional and district types which are used and provided by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung – BBSR) with various variables: „w5_bbsr_regtyp”, „w5_bbsr_krstyp” and „w5_bbsr_stadtland” (BBSR 2012: 50 and 52-53).

Age groups: „w5_altgr”, „w5_altgr4”, „w5_altgr15”

Respondents’ age has been recorded in the “German Survey on Volunteering”. Respondent who didn’ t want or can’t answer the question, were requested to assign themselves in categorized age groups. In the variable „w5_alter“ the missings of the metric answers are replaced by the rounding mean values of the age categories. The variable „w5_altsgr4“ indicates one of four age groups. Variable „w5_altgr15“ collapses age into 15 age groups.

Gender: „w5_geschlecht”

For the first time the “Survey on Volunteering 2019” provides the possibility to indicate yourself as “divers” in addition to “female” and “male”(n = 3). For data protection reasons the proportions of people with this gender information “divers” was not edited due to the low number of cases (percentage base <50). Because of methodological reasons these people were assigned to the group of women (Simonson et al 2021c).

Education: „w5_schulab”, „w5_isced”, „w5_isced3”

There are three different variables on educational level: the four-categories variable „w5_schulab“ records the highest school degree the respondents have achieved and is harmonised over all five FWS waves. The variable „w5_isced“, have been introduce since FWS 2014, contains nine ordinal categories and includes the highest school degree as well as the highest vocational degree. The underlying concept is the “International Standard Classification of Education“ (ISCED) (OECD 1999), indicating the British educational titels. The Stata version of the survey provides the German correspondences („w5_isced“). Variable „w5_isced3“ collapses the ISCED categories into three (with an additional category for respondents with no degree yet).

Migration background: „w5_mig_destatis“, „w5_migrastatus_d“

The SUF FWS 2019 contains two variables with information on migration background. They were generated based on the concept of identifying persons with migration background of the Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2020). It distinguishes five categories: Germans without an own personal experience of immigration, foreigners or Germans with own personal experience of immigration and foreigners or Germans with second generation immigration background.

The variable „w5_migstatus_d“ is a dummy variable and indicates whether respondents have made experience of immigration in the first or second generation or not. That means it comprises all four categories of the migration background „w5_mig_destatis“.

Employment status and professional position: „w5_erwst“, „w5_erwt_d“

The variable „w5_erwst“ contains six categories of respondents' employment status. Whether a respondent is employed or not is recorded in the dummy variable „w5_erwt_d“.

Household constellation. household income and household equivalence income: „w5_hkons“, „w5_hkons“, „w5_heink“, „w5_heink_m“, „w5_aequeink“

The variable „w5_hhkons“ displays whether a person lives with or without a partner and with or without minor-age children in the household. In the “German Survey of Volunteering 2019” the monthly net income of the complete household of all respondents has been recorded with the help of an open inquiry and alternatively in case of non-response with a six-level categorical query. The variable „w5_heink“ compromises all information in six levels and contains the answers of the open inquiry as well. The variable „w5_heink_m“ includes the information of the open inquiry only. The information of the categorical query were added by forming the empirical median of the respective category from the open inquiry. All factors, greater than 999,996 Euros, were recoded to the category “1.000.000”. For the interpretation of the results please note that respondents report the cumulated income of all persons living in the household and not their individual income. In order to be able to describe the individual income, the variable „w5_aequeink“ was introduced for the first time according to the weighting as referred to the OECD-scale from 1994 (OECD 1994).

Country of birth and birth region of the respondent and her or his parents: „w5_gebland\$“, „w5_gbreg\$“

If the respondent or their parents were not born in Germany, the country of birth has been recorded as an open-coded response. The country-of-birth-variables „w5_gebland“, „w5_gebland_mut“ and „w5_gebland_vat“ have been modified for the SUF FWS 2019 by the FDZ-DZA: for example, the spelling of countries has been harmonized and implausible information has been coded as missing (e. g., if a city in Germany was named as country of birth).

For all country-of-birth-variables, historical names of states and political units which did 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 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 historical area belonged to Germany at that time. Stata users can retrieve detailed information on the coding of historical regional designations for today's national territories with the command „notes w5_gebland“.

The variables „w5_gebreg“, „w5_gebreg_mut“ und „w5_gebreg_vat“ distinguish nine birth regions. The countries have been assigned according to the geographical regions and / or political units as reported in Table 3. Countries that were named by particularly many respondents (such as Poland) are listed separately. Historical countries which do not exist anymore have been included in the respective regions as adequately as possible.

Table 3: Assignment of the countries of birth („w5_gebland“) to the birth-regions „w5_gebreg“

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, 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, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland
(5)	CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States): Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
(6)	CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States):	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kirgizstan, Moldavia, Russia, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (until 1991), Uzbekistan, Belarus

	Others without Kazakhstan	
(7)	Asia: Turkey	Turkey
(8)	Asia: Other Asian countries without Turkey / without CIS	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Buthan, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Japan, Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam
(9)	Other countries	Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Cocos Islands, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Cameroon, Canada, Kenya, Columbia, Congo, Cuba, Laos, Libya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Zambia, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Saint Lucia, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, United States of America, Zaire

Political participation: „w5_polpart“, „w5_polpartint“

The dummy variable „w5_polpart“ collect the information on the political activities of the respondents, given in at least one of the six possibilities. The variable „w5_polpartint“ characterize the number of the perceived areas of political activity (range 0 to 5).

Religious affiliation: „w5_religion“

The question of religious affiliation takes place in two stages and allows the classification in eleven categories. For simpler usage in the variable „w5_religion“ the eleven original categories (e.g. the characteristics of the Protestant Church) are summarised to four categories (plus the category 0 “no religious affiliation”).

Duration of living at current residence: „w5_wohnd“

When asked about the duration of the continuously living at current residence the respondents have the opportunity to indicate either a particular year or the number of years. For simpler usage the variable „w5_wohnd“ compromises the information of the two options to one year.

4.3 Generated variables about volunteering

Dummy of activity, level of voluntary activity, dummy of volunteering and interest in volunteering: „w5_aktiv“, „w5_agrad“, „w5_eng“, „w5_engstatus“, „w5_engbereit“

The variable „w5_aktiv“ shows if respondents volunteer in at least one of fourteen societal areas. „w5_agrad“ contains the information whether respondents are “Persons who are neither active

nor volunteers “, “Active persons, who do not volunteer “ or “Active and volunteering persons“. The dummy variable „w5_eng“ shows if respondents volunteer in at least one of the fourteen social areas. The information about the status-quo of the respondents’ volunteering activities are given by the variable „w5_eng_status“. Information of stated interest for taking up (current non-volunteers) or expanding (current volunteers) a voluntary activity can be found in „w5_engbereit“.

Target groups refugees and asylum seekers: „w5_zgr_gefl“, „w5_eng_gefl_d“, „w5_eng_gefl_st“

The “German Survey on Volunteering” documents volunteering activities for refugees and asylum seekers in two different types: all active volunteers are asked about the target groups of their activities („w5_zgr_gefl“). Additionally all respondents, independent of their volunteering status, are asked whether they stood up for refugees or asylum seekers during the last five years, between 2014 and 2019 (retrospective dummy variable „w5_eng_gefl_d“). The five-level variable „w5_eng_gefl_st“ indicates the current and the former voluntary status as well as the retrospective status of volunteering for these target groups”.

Organisational framework: „w5_orgrahm“, „w5_orgrahm_all“

The inquiry for the organisational framework of the voluntary activity allows 14 different answer defaults. For a simpler usage these defaults are summarised in five categories (variable „w5_orgrahm“). For the calculations of the organisational framework on the basis of all interviewed persons (volunteering or non-volunteering) the variable „w5_orgrahm_all“ offers additionally the category 0 (non-volunteering).

Time frame and payments of volunteering: „w5_wstunden“, „w5_std_eng_\$“, „w5_haeufig“, „w5_eng_jahre“, „w5_verguetung“, „w5_kosten_erstattung“

How many hours, converted per week, the respondents spent on their most time-consuming voluntary activity are reported in the variable „w5_wstunden“, a categorized variable with three different characters. The information “hours per year, spent for the most time-consuming voluntary activity” is shown in variable „w5_std_eng_zeitaufw“. Additionally the variable „w5_haeufig“ indicates the frequency, with which the activity is carried out in three steps.

The variable „w5_std_eng_ges“, organises the hours per year, spent for all voluntary activities. „w5_eng_jahre“ reports the number of years the volunteers have been doing their current voluntary works.

To what extent a remuneration per month is given in volunteering is condensed into five categories in „w5_verguetung“ and „w5_kosten_erstattung“ shows whether the respondents made use of the reimbursement.

Internet usage: „w5_internet“, „w5_anzahl_it“, „w5_nutzung_it“

All volunteers have been asked whether they use the Internet in the course of their voluntary activities and if so, to what extent. The information of these two questions are summarised in the variable „w5_internet“ with a three stage characteristic. Respondents’ assessment of their internet usage for several areas of application flow in the variable „w5_anzahl_it“ (values 0 to 5). The

dummy variable „w5_nutzung_it“ sums up, whether the internet is used for the voluntary activity or not.

4.4 Generated variables about informal support, volunteer service and donation

Informal support (IUL) and expenditure of time for support: „w5_iul_\$“, „w5_iul_std_\$“

For all respondents a dummy variable indicates whether they provide private informal support within the scope of child care („w5_iul_kind“), of nursing care („w5_iul_pflege“) or of other instrumental help („w5_iul_hilfe“). If one of these three support areas is positive, the dummy variable „w5_iul“ gives the information. Expenditure of time for informal support is reported as hours per year in the variables „w5_iul_std_ges“ (all three forms of informal support summarised), „w5_iul_std_kind“ (child care), „w5_iul_std_pflege“ (nursing care) und „w5_iul_std_hilfe“ (instrumental help).

In the question block about providing private informal support the volunteers have been additionally asked whether each of the three scopes (child care, nursing care, instrumental help) are addressed to relatives, neighbours, friends, acquaintances or others. For analysis of private informal supports outside of the family (equivalent to the criteria of engagement) four further dummy variables have been built: „w5_iul_nfb“ informs whether or not a private informal support for neighbours, friends, acquaintances or others is provided, „w5_iul_nfb_kind“ reports about child care for these unrelated persons, „w5_iul_nfb_pflege“ relates to nursing care for this group of people and „w5_iul_nfb_hilfe“ to other informal supports.

Volunteer service: „w5_fd_\$“

The kind of volunteer service currently done or already finished is given in three-dummy variables: the Youth Volunteering Service „w5_fd_jug“, the Federal voluntary service („w5_fd_bufdi“) as well as other voluntary services („w5_fd_sonst“). Whether the voluntary service is currently ongoing („w5_fd_ges“) or already finished is documented in „w5_fd_ges_abg“.

Donation: „w5_spendenbeitraege_all“

The six category-variable „w5_spendenbeitraege_all“ indicates whether and to what extent the respondents have donated money for social or charitable purposes during the last twelve months.

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