

PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENT 1

The aim of this practicum assignment is to refresh / make you acquainted with standard operations in the analysis of quantitative social attitude data: (A) describing the data, (B) constructing a multiple indicator index, (C) stepwise estimation a multiple regression model. The focus is on attitude towards migrants and its relationship with social background (education, occupation).

A. Describing the data

Download the data of the European Value Study 2008 from the course webpage. As you will see, this is quite a large dataset...

1. Make a frequency distribution of the country variable and familiarize yourself with the countries covered by the ESS. Select 3 countries to work with (tip: **recode** the country variable into a selection variable and then use **select if** or **filter by**).
2. Make a frequency distribution of gender (v302), year of birth (v303), education (V336) and occupational class (V339egp). Construct the following new variables: FEMALE, AGE, EDUC (on a 0..1 scale) and CLASS with four categories: farm, manual, self-employed, non-manual; also create four dummy (0/1) variables FARM, MANUAL, SELFEMPL, NONMANUAL.

B. Constructing a multiple indicator index for anti-migrant attitude.

1. Make a frequency distribution of the anti-migrant indicators V268-V275. Familiarize yourself with the contents of the items and the format of the answering scale. Standardize the variables if needed.
2. Assuming that the 8 items represent a single underlying dimension, use **reliability** to select items into a scale of maximum reliability. Report the reliability.
3. Construct the remaining items into a scale MIGATT using **compute**. Standardize the index to z-scores using **descriptives .. / save**.

C. Stepwise estimation a multiple regression model.

1. Report mean values of MIGATT by CLASS, and then estimate the effect of the dummy variables in a regression model. Make sure you fully understand the relationship between the means table and the estimated model.
2. Add EDUC, AGE and FEMALE to the model (one at the time) and interpret (the change in) the B-coefficients.

Report the stepwise regression model in an edited table (so NOT a copy of the spss-output) with B-coefficients, t-values and adjusted R2. Add a header and footer that explain some of the contents. Add your syntax file to this document, and send it to harry.ganzeboom@vu.nl. If you did not finish by the end of the practicum hour, send whatever you have at that point.