PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENT 3

A. Constructing the Post-Materialism index PM

The items for materialism / post-materialism in the EVS2008 are V201 and V202: these are the first and second priority chosen among the set of the classical four Inglehart items. Inglehart (1997: p. 389) provides the spss code on how to construct this information into a three-value PostMat index variable. This code does not specify what to do with missing values… A better idea is the following:

```
freq v201 v202.

count postmat = v201 v202 (2 4).
count mat     = v201 v202 (1 3).
count choices = v201 v202 (1 2 3 4).

freq postmat mat choices.

cross postmat by mat by choices.

if (choices eq 2) PM=postmat.
do if (choices eq 1).
recode postmat (1=1.5)(0=0.5) into PM.
end if.

format PM (F4.2).
cross countryx by PM /cell=row.

means PM by c_abrv.
```

Transport the last spss table into an excel sheet, sort the information by PM value and make a nice-looking bargraph. Include in into your REPORT.

Give a max. 100 word summary interpretation of the results: how are European countries in EVS ranked by average PM value? Any surprises?

For assignment B-D, select five countries among all countries in the EVS2008

B. Background of Post-Materialism

Construct the following variables:

- Birth cohort as continuous variable COHORT, ranging between 0 and 1.

- Education as a continuous variable EDUC, ranging between 0 and 1.

- Parental wealth PARWEALTH as average of items V363 and V367, ranging between 0 and 1.

- PARSES as a mean of father's and mother's education and occupation. Consult Inglehart (1997), Table 5.1 as a model (to improve upon)..

Using a stepwise regression model, examine the causal influence of the four background variables on PM. Make a table with unstandardized and standardized regression coefficients and t-values. Interpret the changes of coefficient between steps.

Also estimate the model with the option /Origin to mimick Inglehart's estimation of the model 'regression through the origin'. Comment on the differences.

C. Non-linearity of cohort-effects (*)

Recode the COHORT variable into four categories (choose cutpoints that are meaningful to you), and generate four dummy variables to represent the groups in a regression model. Repeat the sequence of models from assignment B and make another table to report the models.

Comment on to what extent these new coefficients differ from the previous ones and to what extend they show non-linearity of the cohort-effects.

D. Effect of aggregate parental poverty/wealth (**)

Look at the level of parental poverty / wealth by country and diagnose in which countries most parental poverty / wealth is reported. Construct a variable for country level wealth using this average. You can do this by RECODE … INTO, but try to explore AGGREGATE to do the same thing. Using this variable, test the hypothesis (Inglehart's (1997: 45) hypothesis #1) that PM is higher in countries in which respondents have experienced more wealth when growing up.

Report the result in at most 100 words.

REPORT

Collect graph and interpretation (A), table and interpretation (B), table and interpretation (C) and your interpretation (D) into a single report and include your spss syntax as an appendix *in this document*. Send it at the end of the practicum to Harry.Ganzeboom@vu.nl.