ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the World Values Survey Association will take place on April 13-14, 2016 in Taipei, Taiwan. During this meeting members of the SAC will discuss a number of issues, related to preparation and implementation of the WVS-7, among them: amendment of the list of tasks and duties of the SAC; role of regional hubs in the territorial structure of the Association; recommendations for the translation of the WVS-7 master questionnaire into local languages; elaboration of methodological principles of sample design and requirements to sample in WVS-7; development of the rules for national teams, principal investigators, supervisors and interviewers; revision of data quality requirements and data quality control procedures; revision of the requirements to the data archive on depositing and storage of the WVS-7 data. If you and the members of your team think that SAC should extend this list by inclusion of any other issue important for implementation of WVS-7, please, contact the WVSA Secretariat with this information.

VENUE FOR THE 2017 WVSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In Spring 2017 World Values Survey Association will be holding its next International Open Conference and General Assembly. We are currently looking for a venue for this event. In case if your organization is interested in hosting such event (or can recommend a venue), please, let us know about it.

Please, kindly note that WVSA is a non-profit NGO and will give preference to a venue offering conference facilities (conference room, meeting room etc.) for free or at minimal cost. With your propositions and offers as well as for more information in this regard, please, contact the WVSA Secretariat.

NEXT WVSA MEETING

Next big meeting of the WVSA team is planned for July, 2016 and will be conducted in conjunction with the World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) (July 23-28) in Poznan, Poland. In addition to a number of Congress panels, organized by the WVSA, the event will include also WVSA Welcoming Reception and the EC and SAC meeting. The date and venue of the WVSA meeting will be announced in the course of April at the WVSA web-site. If you plan on attending the IPSA Congress and you would like to meet representatives of the WVSA Coordination team, please, get in touch with the WVSA Secretariat.
Pippa Norris’s article on “Authoritarian populism is rising across the West” using WVS data: Many American commentators have had trouble understanding the rise of Donald Trump. How could such a figure surge to become the most likely standard-bearer for the GOP – much less have any chance of entering the White House? But Trump is far from unique. As many commentators have noted, he fits the wave of authoritarian populists whose support has swelled in many Western democracies. Populist authoritarianism can best be explained as a cultural backlash in Western societies against long-term, ongoing social change. Over recent decades, the World Values Survey shows that Western societies have been getting gradually more liberal on many social issues, especially among the younger generation and well-educated middle class. That includes egalitarian attitudes toward sex roles, tolerance of fluid gender identities and LGBT rights, support for same-sex marriage, tolerance of diversity, and more secular values, as well as what political scientists call emancipative values, engagement in directly assertive forms of democratic participation, and cosmopolitan support for agencies of global governance. This long-term generational shift threatens many traditionalists’ cultural values. Less educated and older citizens fear becoming marginalized and left behind within their own countries. In the United States, evidence from the World Values Survey perfectly illustrates the education gap in these types of cultural values. By the most recent wave in 2011, 44 percent of U.S. non-college graduates approved of having a strong leader unchecked by elections and Congress[…]

President of the WVS Christian Haerpfier acted as a discussant at the symposium on “Blessed Happiness (Fu): Visions of a Good Life in Urban China” hosted on January 21-22, 2016 by Department of Sociology of Georgetown University. During the event researchers presented their findings from an ongoing project of three years on how the Chinese people define happiness. In his speech Prof. Haerpfier shared WVS experience on measurement of population happiness and well-being and discussed possibilities and limitations of studying happiness, life satisfaction and their domains in quantitative survey and in cross-national perspective.

In March Secretary General of the WVSA Professor Bi Puranen has presented WVS data on TV4.SE in Sweden (link). Later this month Bi Puranen gave a lecture on tolerance in the world to the members of the Union of Stockholm, using WVS data, which showed that in Sweden people have a uniquely tolerant lifestyle compared to the rest of the world countries: “We have a high tolerance for people’s own choice, and it causes an intolerance to those who do not share this lifestyle. In other words, we cannot accept the things that happened in Brussels yesterday, because it goes against the tolerant society” she noted. Bi Puranen’s lecture was based on the values in different countries since 1981 which has showed that the vast majority of people are against violence.

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) celebrated the 10th anniversary of establishment of its Secretariat in Montreal. Event took place on March 30th at Concordia University where the Founding President of the WVSA Ronald Inglehart gave a lecture entitled “35 years of Cultural Change: What’s Next?” During his presentation, Inglehart focused on the findings of the World Value Survey and European Values Study that have been completed in six waves of surveys on all six inhabited continents, from 1981 to 2012. The upcoming 7th wave of the WVS will be undertaken in 2017, with Prof. Guy Lachapelle, Secretary General of IPSA, leading the Canadian national team.

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World Happiness Conference 2016 took place on March, 15, 2016 in Rome, Italy and was followed by the presentation of World Happiness Report 2016. WVSA was represented at the event by the Secretary Kseniya Kizilova who presented WVS findings on population happiness and subjective well-being in 100 world countries and its dynamics in 1981-2014. The World Happiness Report is based on World Gallup Poll while WVS data is used for comparison of life satisfaction models. Both the World Happiness Report and the WVS findings confirm that level of income (GDP), social support, physical and spiritual health and freedom to make life choices are among the most important factors influencing population happiness.
WVS-BASED PUBLICATIONS IN KUWAIT

A series of reports on public opinion in Kuwait based on the WVS data have been prepared by the Gulf Opinions Centre for Polls and Statistics (WVSA national partner in Kuwait) under the leadership of its Executive Director Dr. Samir Abu Rumman. The report addresses such issues like trust of the population of Kuwait to their family, friends, relatives, neighbours, people whom they know and people whom they never met, other citizens of Kuwait as well as representatives of other nations and religions. The reports provide information on the opinion of the whole population of Kuwait as well as stress the difference in the opinion of different social groups - males and females, different education, incomes groups - and the differences between the opinion of the population of Kuwait and other countries of the Gulf and MENA region who participated in the last and most recent 6th wave of the World Values Survey.

WVS-BASED REPORT IN ECUADOR

A useful and colourful compilation of charts and graphs presenting data and findings from the WVS wave 6 in Ecuador has been prepared and published by the leader of the WVS national team in Ecuador Cristina Paez. The report caused significant interest among the scholars and media in Ecuador. Full version of the report is available for downloading at the WVS web-site.

RECENT BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS BY WVSA SCHOLARS

"A World of Three Cultures" by Miguel E. Basáñez and Foreword by Ronald F. Inglehart, 2016

"How do They Look at Us? Islam and Muslims in World Opinion Polls" by Samir Abu Rumman, 2016


"Happiness of the Nations" by Marita Carballo, 2015

"Why Elections Fail” by Pippa Norris, 2015

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