



Swiss Metadatabase of
Religious Affiliation in
Europe (SMRE)



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WWW.SMRE-DATA.CH

Religious Affiliation in Europe – an Empirical Problem

The role of religion in European societies has become a prominent topic of public and academic debate. In the context of contemporary European societies questions concerning religion figure large when it comes to identities and social integration. The role of the different Christian traditions, the degree of secularization and the status of more recently immigrated religious minorities, especially of Muslims, are contested. Consequently, statistics on religious affiliation are frequently used (or mis-used) as political arguments. Data on religious affiliation are regularly brought forward in debates about the strength, predominance and acceptance of various religious groups.

Despite the growing importance of this statistical information, social-science research has thus far paid little attention to the question of religious affiliation and its precise measurement. In fact, social scientists (as well as politicians) use figures on religious affiliation which, to the surprise of an empirically minded researcher, vary greatly. Moreover, for Europe as a whole as for important European countries such as France or Great Britain it is currently impossible to give reliable figures on the religious affiliation of its population.

Producing Better Data: The «Swiss Metadatabase of Religious Affiliation in Europe (SMRE)»

The Swiss Metadatabase of Religious Affiliation in Europe (SMRE) has been established to substantially improve the data situation of religious affiliation in Europe and to elaborate a precise measurement. In a first phase of three years of research, data from a wide range of sources were collected and analyzed.

The second phase of our project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). It began in spring 2015.

The SMRE project aims to substantially improve the quality of available data, including a joint international research effort over the course of the next three years. For this purpose a newly designed, interactive SMRE web-application will be set up.

It can be reached at www.smre-data.ch

Learning more about Religious Affiliation in Europe: Key Content Features of the SMRE

- 50 European countries incl. Armenia, Aserbaidjan, Georgia, Monaco, Moldavia, Russia, San Marino, Ukraine and Turkey.
- Two periods of reporting: 2000 (1996-2005) and 2010 (2006-2015).
- Numerous data sets and original data sources from 1996 to 2015.
- The «SMRE country rating system» for data reliability and degree of pluralization.
- SMRE estimates for each country and various European regions including a best data-set.
- High transparency of data processing: data collection, data correction, data classification and data estimation are documented step by step.

Doing Crowd Research: Technical Features of the SMRE Interactive Web-Application

- Newly designed web-application based on a Relational Database Management System (RDMS).
- Free access and open data policy: giving data science to science and science to the public.
- Interactive templates for data input:
Any scientist or user interested in the problem of religious affiliation in Europe will be able to upload and document her or his data.
- All data description in the vernacular language and in English.
- All data will be double-checked and commented on by the SMRE-research team.
- Interactive tools for data retrieval and data analysis:
Everybody can retrieve data and prepare customized tables, diagrams and maps. Country- and dataset-cockpits allow for exploring data by countries and data by sources.
- Special interfaces and export functions for easy use of SMRE-content for your own presentations and publications.

Forthcoming Events

- SMRE Workshop: 9.–11. March 2016, Lucerne:
Estimating the Religious Composition of Europe: Religious Statistics, Methodology and Algorithms
- The International SMRE Conference: Autumn 2017, Lucerne:
Religious Affiliation and Religious Identities in Europe: Country Studies and Regional Comparisons

Contact, Information, Collaboration



Prof. Dr. Antonius Liedhegener / Anastas Odermatt MA
Zentrum für Religion, Wirtschaft und Politik/
Centre for Religion, Economy and Politics (ZRWP)
Swiss Metadatabase of Religious Affiliation in Europe (SMRE)
University of Lucerne
Frohburgstrasse 3
6002 Lucerne
Switzerland

info@smre-data.ch

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www.smre-data.ch