Download and use guide

Create your local CNES Release-1 files in Stata

You need Stata 16 or later, the CNES do-file and the supported datasets. CNES provides code rather than a combined dataset because access to some NES files is individual and may require a signed agreement. Obtain the source datasets yourself and run the code locally to create the comparative files.

1 Download the source datasets

Use the official archive links below and select the supported release. Download and extract the files to your computer.

Access warning. Some datasets can be downloaded directly online; others require registration, a signed agreement and approval of the access request. Allow time for approval.

Study	Supported source	Archive
BES 2019	Post-election random probability survey v1.3.0	UK Data Service
GLES 2021	Post-election cross-section ZA7701 v2.1.0	GESIS
ANES 2020	Time Series full release, 10 February 2022	ANES
ITANES 2022	Itanes2022_POST_release 01_weighted	UNIMI Dataverse
DPES 2023	Representative integrated LISS + I&O; file; documentation v2.0, March 2025. Agreement and approval required.	DANS
POLNES 2023	Released English-language file described by the 2025 codebook	SWPS
Selects 2023	Post-election survey Selects2023_PES_v2.0	SWISSUbase

The do-file reads supported Stata .dta inputs and checks their exact file identity. Keep the inputs unchanged. Another release, a resaved file or an ad hoc format conversion may fail the check. If the supported .dta is unavailable, contact CNES before proceeding.

2 Enter the file locations

Open the do-file in Stata's Do-file Editor. At the top, under STEP 1, fill in output_dir and the input_... entry for each study you want to include.

```
local output_dir "C:/Users/yourname/Documents/CNES/output"
local input_GBR_BES_2019 "C:/Users/yourname/Documents/CNES/data/BES_2019.dta"
```

Replace the examples with your actual full paths and filenames. Keep the quotation marks and use forward slashes, including on Windows. On macOS a path can start /Users/yourname/Documents/CNES/.

Leave an input entry as "" to omit that study. At least one input (dataset) is required. Choose an output location whose parent folder already exists. No further edits are needed below STEP 1.

Run the code and find your files

3 Run the entire do-file

Save your changes, then run the entire do-file from its first line, including STEP 1. Do not run STEP 2 separately. The code opens the datasets automatically; no data need to be loaded first.

The program checks the source files, harmonizes each selected study, then appends the selected studies automatically. A new timestamped run_... folder is created inside output_dir for each run.

On success, Stata displays: “CNES: four combined containers saved in ...”. Check the displayed folder location. If a supplied study fails, no combined files are created; resolve the reported problem and rerun. Any completed national files are kept in national_intermediates/.

4 Use the generated outputs

Each successful run creates four combined Stata files containing the studies you selected. You do not need to append them manually.

Combined file	Contents and row structure
CNES_R1_respondent_main.dta	One row per respondent. Contains 58 scalar harmonized outputs, their missing-status companions, identifiers, four support fields and the retained source weight/design fields.
CNES_R1_party_ptv.dta	One row per respondent and party in the available PTV batteries; recoded and 0-1 ratings with their missing-status companions.
CNES_R1_party_liking.dta	One row per respondent and party in the available party-liking batteries; recoded and 0-1 ratings with their missing-status companions.
CNES_R1_leader_liking.dta	One row per respondent and leader in the available leader-liking batteries; recoded and 0-1 ratings with their missing-status companions.

The four comparative files above are the final outputs for analysis. National construction files are kept separately in national_intermediates/; users do not need to open or append them.

Why four files? The main file stores one value per respondent for each variable. Party and leader batteries contain several answers per respondent, for different entities across studies. Separate tables keep these ratings in a simple structure and avoid many study-specific columns that would be empty elsewhere. A single wide file is possible by reshaping each battery into entity-specific columns and merging it with the main file.

Use CNES_R1_respondent_main.dta for analyses with one row per respondent. For analyses of party or leader evaluations, use the relevant evaluation file and add respondent characteristics from the main file by matching cnes_study_id and cnes_case_id. Each evaluation row contains one respondent’s rating of one party or leader, identified by entity_key. Keep the evaluation files separate unless you explicitly need to combine them: matching them only by respondent identifiers would create all combinations of that respondent’s ratings.

Consult the codebook for variable coding, study coverage, missing statuses and weight selection. CNES creates no common weight.

Cite CNES and each original NES used, following their citation requirements. Keep respondent-level data local and follow the source licences.