Use case: Platform specific Missing Codes

The SOEP delivers its data containing a set of standard missing values:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Meaning |
| -1 | no answer/don’t know |
| -2 | does not apply |
| -3 | implausible value |
| -4 | inadmissible multiple response |
| -5 | not included |
| -6 | version of questionnaire with modified filtering |
| -8 | question not part of the survey program this year (Only applicable for datasets in long format.) |

Source: <https://paneldata.org/soep-core>

By defining platform specific sentinel values one could deliver datasets for the several platforms, which have completely specified missing values.

A RepresentedVariable is defined especially by

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | yes |
| 2 | no |
|  | no answer/don’t know |
|  | does not apply |
|  | implausible value |
|  | inadmissible multiple response |
|  | not included |
|  | version of questionnaire with modified filtering |
|  | question not part of the survey program this year (Only applicable for datasets in long format.) |

The different sentinel values are connected to representations on the various platforms like this

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Stata | SPSS | R | SAS |
| no answer/don’t know | .a | -1 | -1 | .A |
| does not apply | .b | -2 | -2 | .B |
| implausible value | .c | -3 | -3 | .C |
| inadmissible multiple response | .d | -4 | -4 | .D |
| not included | .e | -5 | -5 | .E |
| version of questionnaire with modified filtering | .f | -6 | -6 | .F |
| question not part of the survey program this year (Only applicable for datasets in long format.) | .h | -8 | -8 | .H |

Stata/SAS: missing values are already defined as missing

SPSS: Declare value range -1;-8 as missing

R: generate new variable containing values for missing codes

The different platforms have restrictions (Stata, SAS: 26 user defined missing values, one system missing; SPSS: 3 user defined missing values or one range of values and one user defined value, one system missing, R: only one system missing value NA)