# Introduction

HUMAN Surveys make it easier to work with multiple sources of public opinion data. It does so by formatting variables for consistency and merging datasets together. The current merged dataset includes millions of respondents, covers most countries in the world, and extends back decades. This increased variation over time and space enables answering new research questions with greater reliability. The ultimate goal is to format every variable from every round of every publicly available survey source that takes nationally representative samples of adults. Furthermore, the intention is to continue this service indefinitely and independently of substantial funding, which leaves only one currently viable approach: crowdsourcing.

# Crowdsourced Research

Researchers spend countless hours cleaning up datasets before working with them. Researchers repeat the same steps on the same datasets, redundantly doing work that somebody else has probably already done. Instead of working from scratch to clean up datasets, why not start with HUMAN Surveys, add missing variables needed for particular research projects, and then upload the additions for others to use. Using HUMAN Surveys as a starting point enables cost-effectively undertaking much larger projects in less time. This provides value and we will seek funding to undertake these activities, but the scale of the ambition and continuous release of new datasets necessitates crowdsourcing. The main requirement for using HUMAN Surveys is that you give back to the project whatever additions you make to the merged datasets and formatting scripts.

# Version 1 Release

The first version of HUMAN Surveys focuses on a limited set of variables: social trust, satisfaction with democracy, support for democracy, perceived electoral integrity, age, gender, education, and income. It identifies the country, year, and survey round for nineteen sources: Afrobarometer, AmericasBarometer, Arab Barometer, AsiaBarometer, Asian Barometer Survey, European Social Survey, European Values Study, Latinobarómetro, World Values Survey, International Social Survey Programme, Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, New Europe Barometer, New Russia Barometer, Voice of the People Series, Consolidation of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, Eurobarometer – Standard and Special, Eurobarometer - Applicant and Candidate Countries, Eurobarometer – Central and Eastern, and the Australian Election Study. Future releases will expand the number of variables and sources.