



## INTRODUCTION

This *User's Guide and Documentation* is the companion document to the MTUS dataset. Information on other time use surveys not included in the harmonised version of the dataset are included on the Centre for Time Use Research web site (<http://www.timeuse.org/information/studies/>). More information on the background of the MTUS also are available on-line <http://www.timeuse.org/mtus/>. This User Guide is publicly available. Access to the data is however restricted and requires authorization (see <http://www.timeuse.org/mtus/access/>). This User Guide and Documentation pertains to Release 3 of the World5.5 dataset and replaces Release 2 (May 2005). This documentation also covers Release 1 of the World 5.8 and World 6.0 datasets.

The User's Guide describes the structure of the MTUS dataset and discusses issues of comparability across surveys. To date, nearly 60 time use surveys have been archived at MTUS. This User's Guide, however, pertains to only a subset of these surveys. Future releases of the dataset and User's Guide will gradually cover all the surveys currently archived at MTUS, in addition to new surveys.

The current version of this User's Guide covers the following surveys:

- Australia 1974, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2006
- Austria 1992
- Canada 1971-72, 1981, 1986, 1992, 1998
- Denmark 1964, 1987, 2001
- Finland 1979, 1987/88, 1999
- France 1966, 1974, 1985, 1998
- Germany 1991-92, 2001
- Italy 1989, 2003
- The Netherlands 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005
- Norway 1971, 1981, 1990/91, 2000
- Slovenia 2000
- Spain 2002-03
- South Africa 2000
- Sweden 1990/91, 2000
- UK 1961, 1974-75, 1983, 1987, 1995, 2000-01, 2005
- USA 1965-66, 1975-76, 1985, 1992-94, 1994-95, 1998-01, 2003-05

This User's Guide describes the surveys and the various harmonised variables. It also discusses the weighting of time use survey as well as the methods of analysis of time use data. Survey-specific information regarding the coding of



harmonised variables appear separately in the README documents for each survey. These are available by clicking on the year in the middle column of the surveys included page (<http://www.timeuse.org/mtus/documentation/surveys/>).

The MTUS team also has produced a separate *Coding Procedure Document* which covers the information in this document of greatest use to people harmonising the MTUS files, as well as supplementary information relating to the conversion process. This document is also available online (<http://www.timeuse.org/mtus/convert/>).