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David Voas and Ingrid Storm,
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The online version of this article can be found at
<http://www.eurel.info/IMG/pdf/voas-storm.pdf>

Summary

To summarise the preliminary findings of this study, self-reported morality is associated with various measures of religiosity, but more for ethics of purity and personal autonomy and less for legal transgressions, self-interest and cheating. Country and regional context appears to be of central importance to the relationship between religion and morality, and there are substantial differences between eastern and western Europe. These differences can be partly accounted for by development, governance and country level religiosity, but a mostly on the dimension of autonomy or self-expression values. Emphasis on personal autonomy has increased, and values of purity, sanctity and clear guidelines of what is good and evil have decreased. The gap between the religious and nonreligious individuals on moral values has also increased over time. On the other hand, attitudes to crime and cheating have been constant over the four waves of the EVS. Younger people are more likely to justify crimes than older people, but this seems to be an age rather than a cohort effect.