The European Social Survey
Round 12 Question Module Design Teams (QDT)

Guidance for Stage 1 Applications - Repeat modules

1. Introduction

This document provides guidance for teams wanting to submit a **Stage 1 application** to design a rotating module to be included as part of Round 12 of the European Social Survey (ESS).

Please refer to the [Call Specification](#) for further information on the ESS, the question design process and Question Module Design Team (QDT) requirements. Full details of the criteria and procedures by which modules will be selected and the application timetable are also available in the Specification.

This guidance relates to applications for **repeats of previous ESS modules.** At least two-thirds of the items in the repeat module must be administered in an identical format to those in the earlier module. Applications for repeat modules are invited both from teams who designed the original ESS module on the topic and from new teams.

Teams wishing to apply for a new module should see this separate [guidance document](#).

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to the ESS ERIC will evaluate all Stage 1 proposals. Teams judged to have met the minimum requirements for an ESS rotating module as set out in the Call Specification will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application.

2. Format of Stage 1 applications

Applications must be made in English and comprise:

- A completed copy of the [Stage 1 application cover sheet.](#)

  This sets out the title of the proposed module, a brief abstract (max 250 words) and the details of the proposed QDT head.   It also includes space to declare whether the application is for a new or repeat module.

- The main section of the application (maximum 4 sides A4).

  There is no formal application form but please refer to the guidance in Section 3 for suggested sections to include. Applications should be submitted as PDFs. The application should be written in Arial font size 11 and include 2cm page margins. All pages should be numbered.

- Bibliographic references (max. 2 sides A4).

- Brief CVs (max. 1 side A4 each) for up to five QDT members, including contact details.

Applications must be submitted as a single document.

3. What information to cover in your application for a repeat module

Stage 1 applications must demonstrate that the module is worthy of further consideration for inclusion as part of ESS Round 12. To do this, applications must demonstrate: the relevance and timeliness of the proposed module for cross-national research, its suitability to be fielded as part of the ESS, and their credentials as a potential Question Module Design Team.

The main application should include sections addressing:

Rationale
Applicants should make the case for collecting *new* cross-national survey evidence on their proposed topic. They should explain how the module will add to the existing knowledge base and contribute to theoretical and/or empirical understanding of key issues within the European arena, building on the evidence collected as part of the previous module. They should make the case for repeating the module at this particular point in time, i.e. 2022/23. Applicants should (briefly) outline the theoretical approach on which the module will be based, explaining whether, and if so how, this differs from the approach taken in the previous module. They should demonstrate that the topic will have wide appeal to both academic and non-academic audiences, with reference to how data from the previous module has been used.

Suitability
Applicants should demonstrate that it is both appropriate and feasible to field the proposed module as part of the ESS, i.e. as part of a cross-national general social survey that is representative of the general population.

With reference to the previous module, proposals must provide some evidence that it is possible to operationalise the key concepts to be covered successfully using standardised closed survey questions and to collect equivalent data across a variety of cultural and institutional settings. If the previous module was judged to suffer from any serious limitations, these should be acknowledged and a proposal for overcoming them in the new module suggested.

It is possible that Round 12 may include a mix of data collection approaches between countries, with some national teams carrying out face-to-face fieldwork and others using self-completion or mixed-mode approaches. Academic teams will therefore need to give consideration to how their module can be adapted to be suitable across modes (including face-to-face interviewer-administered surveys, web and paper self-completion). With a self-completion approach it is particularly important that variation in module length between respondents is kept to a minimum. It may therefore be necessary for some teams to consider revisions to their modules where previously large sections were asked only of particular sub-groups.

Team expertise and experience
Applications must demonstrate that the proposed QDT has an appropriate mix of substantive and survey expertise and suitable cross-national experience to deliver a successful module.

Applications for repeat modules can be made either by the team responsible for the previous module or by a new team. However, at least one member of the proposed team should have published using data from the previous module.

Please refer to the [Call Specification](#) for a list of the selection criteria the SAB will use to make their decision.

4. Application submission process

Please submit your application, including the [Stage 1 Application cover sheet,](#) electronically to ess@city.ac.uk. Emails should include "Round 12 module application" in the subject line.

Applications must be received by **17:00 UK time** on **Friday 6th May 2022.**

Please refer to the application check list on the cover sheet and make sure that your application includes all the necessary information and is in the correct format.

5. What happens next?

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to the ESS ERIC will evaluate all Stage 1 proposals received on or before the closing date. Teams judged to have met the minimum requirements for an ESS rotating module, as specified by the selection criteria, will be notified in late June 2022 and invited to submit a Stage 2 application (closing date 14th October 2022).