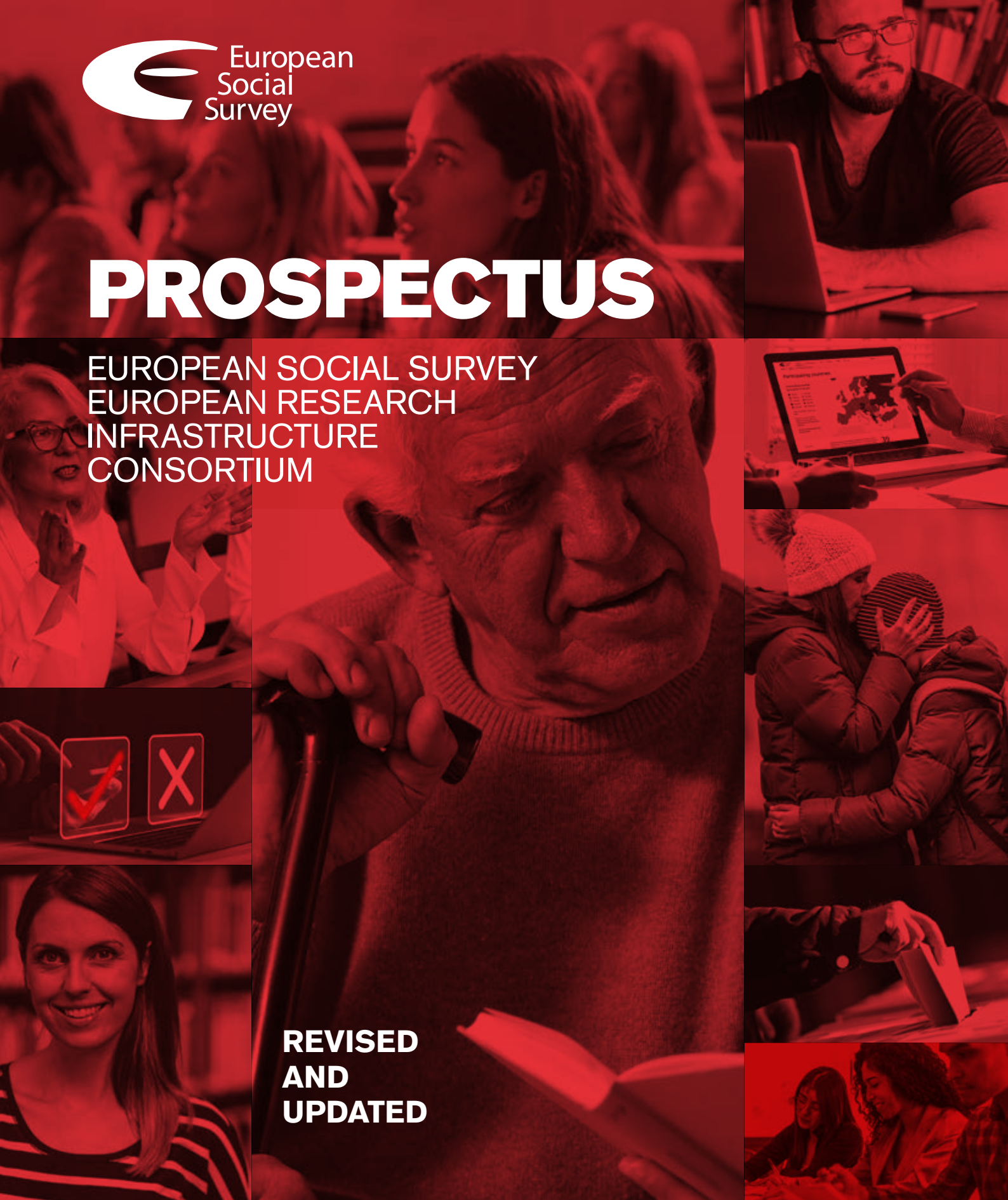


# PROSPECTUS

EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSORTIUM

REVISED  
AND  
UPDATED



## INTRODUCTION

Last year marked the 10th anniversary of the decision taken by the European Commission to establish the European Social Survey as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC). ESS was established in 2001, after an initiative from the European Science Foundation and, in 2013, 14 countries founded the ERIC. This anniversary is worth celebrating.

The main objective of the ESS ERIC is to operate a research infrastructure providing high quality data by fielding a general population survey every two years across the participating countries. This data measures change and stability over time, within and between European countries through respondents' living conditions, social structures, public opinion and attitudes.

In 2023, the ESS participated in a European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Landmark Monitoring exercise and achieved a most impressive evaluation. The success of the ESS is due to its methodological rigour and the combination of academic and social relevance. Perhaps less noticed from the outside, but of great importance, is the ability within ESS to adapt to changing challenges and opportunities.

For example, the recent pandemic made face-to-face data collection difficult to be implemented in all countries during Round 10. As such, special dispensation was given for self-completion modes to be implemented. In the aftermath, the ESS has decided to change the mode of data collection, away from face-to-face interviewing to self-completion. Together with a range of other strategic actions, the transition to self-completion will ensure the future sustainability of the ESS.

I thank everybody who contributes to the realisation of the ESS ERIC.

**Professor Ann-Helén Bay**  
Chair, ESS ERIC General Assembly

## FOREWORD

The European Social Survey (ESS) was established against a background of poor availability of academically rigorous cross-national data, in particular with regard to attitudes, beliefs and values. The founders of the ESS, Roger Jowell and Max Kaase, had the vision and determination not only to develop the scientific blueprint for the study but also to persuade funding agencies that a knowledge gap existed. The European Science Foundation, European Commission and national funders were persuaded to fund and nurture a rigorous, high quality, comparative general social survey for the wider social science community.

We now have the highest number of members of a European Research Infrastructure (ERIC) across all scientific disciplines. It is something we are extremely proud of. The commitment of so many countries means that the core activity of the project - delivering a freely available high-quality dataset on a plethora of topics - is fully funded by all participating countries.

As Europe faces severe challenges, including the effects of climate change, rising immigration, challenges to existing welfare structures, political upheaval, an ageing population, persistent health inequalities and even war in Europe, the ESS is providing robust data that illuminates changes and stability in the social fabric of Europe.

With over 230,000 registered users, and more than 6,500 academic publications identified, along with clear evidence of impact 'beyond academia', the ESS has already established itself as a critical pillar of the European Research Area. In addition, its methods and methodological research programme ensure that the infrastructure remains 'state of the art' and helps to position Europe as a global leader in terms of comparative social science.

The vision of the founders of the survey has clearly been realised. As the ESS marks a decade of becoming a formal research infrastructure with its own legal status, we invite all countries within geographic Europe to join the existing members and ensure pan-European coverage.

Together we can provide a platform to ensure that the views of the people within Europe are heard in relation to these major challenges. Academics, policy makers and those in civil society then have robust data to inform both discussion and decisions. This prospectus provides details about the infrastructure, as well as information on how to apply for membership. ◀

**Professor Rory Fitzgerald**  
ESS ERIC Director, March 2024



**“ We now have the highest number of members of a European Research Infrastructure (ERIC) across all scientific disciplines. It is something we are extremely proud of. ”**

**Professor Rory Fitzgerald**  
ESS ERIC Director, March 2024

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Social Survey (ESS) is a pan-European research infrastructure providing freely accessible data for academics, policymakers, civil society and the wider public. It was awarded European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) status in 2013.

The work of the ESS ERIC includes organising a survey every two years measuring social attitudes and behaviour; utilising and developing the highest standards in cross-national research; providing direct and virtual training programmes and supporting free access to its growing data and documentation archive.

Participating Members fund a Core Scientific Team who design and provide quality assurance for the survey as well as distributing and curating the data. Members fund their own national teams to implement the survey in their country, engaging commercial survey agencies, National Statistical Institutes and non-profit research institutes to conduct interviews in people's homes.

The ESS has been mapping attitudinal and behavioural changes in Europe's social, political and moral climate for over 20 years. Launched in 2001, the first round of surveys was conducted in 2002/03 and gathered results from 22 countries. Since its inception, 39 countries have taken part in at least one round of the ESS.

By adopting rigorous approaches to probability sampling, question-testing, event-recording, translation and response rate enhancement, the ESS has become *the* authoritative source of information about changing social values in Europe.

This general social survey measures attitudes on a wide range of subjects. The ESS was primarily designed as a comparative time series to monitor changing attitudes and values across Europe. The questionnaire therefore consists of a main core section that includes a number of questions that have been answered almost every two years since 2002/03. Each question has a unique identifier to enable people to easily compare data over time.

The development of this 'core' part of the ESS questionnaire followed recommendations made by academic experts who were consulted by the Core Scientific Team during the early planning stages of the ESS.

Additionally, in each round of the ESS, multi-national teams of researchers based in ESS countries are selected to collaborate in the design of part of the questionnaire. Two 'rotating' modules are selected following a Call for Proposals open to all academics.

As a result, the ESS always includes questions measuring ancestry; education; employment; financial circumstances; household composition; and other socio-demographics including gender and parental information. Attitudinal data collected in every round focuses on climate change and energy; crime and justice; democracy and government; immigration;

health and wellbeing; institutional and social trust; media and internet use; European, national and ethnic identity; perceived discrimination; political affiliation, interest and participation; religion; social exclusion; and values.

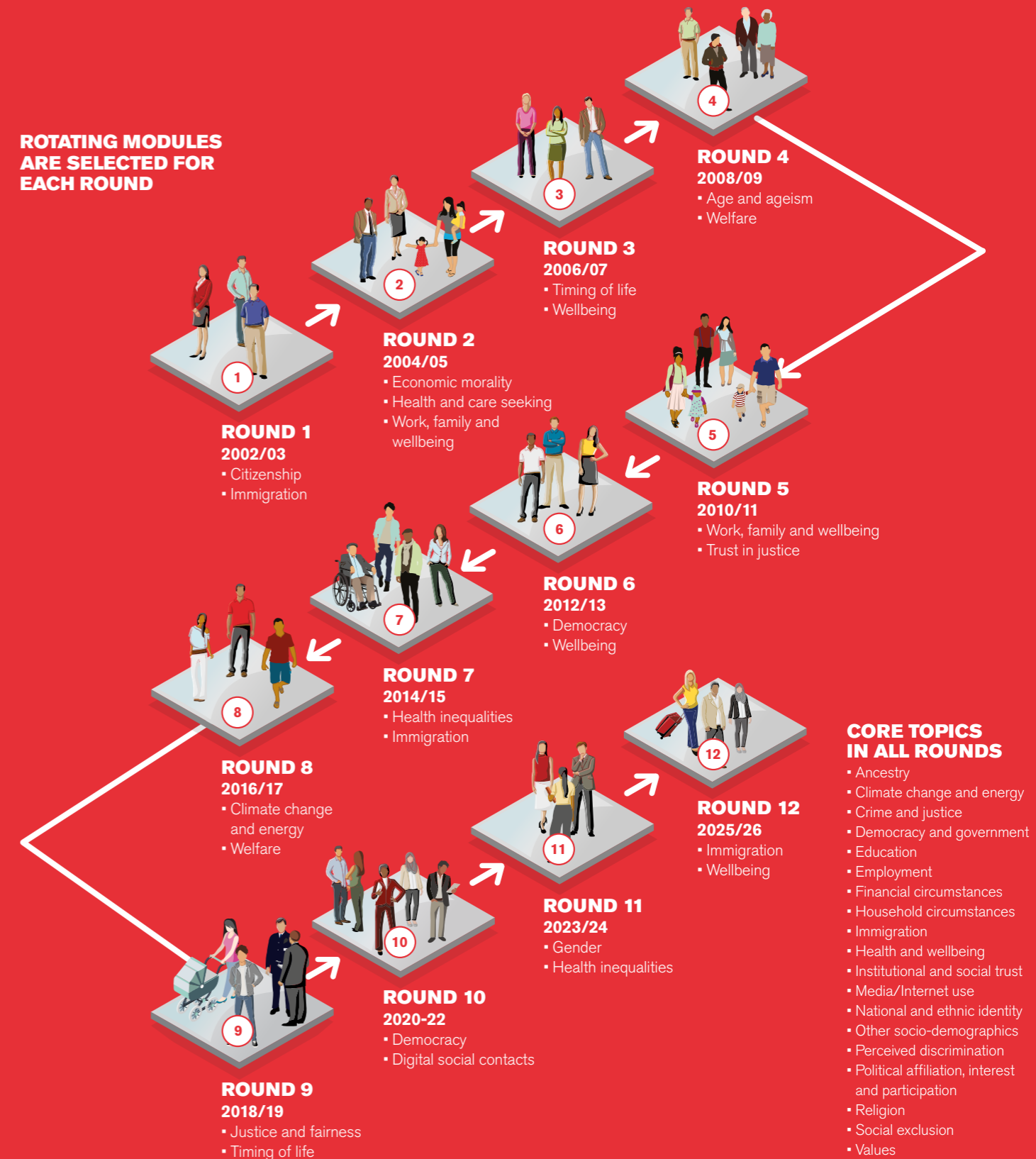
The ESS has asked questions designed in collaboration with external academics on citizen involvement; health and care; economic morality; family, work and wellbeing; timing of life, personal and social wellbeing; welfare attitudes; ageism, trust in the police and courts; democracy; immigration; social inequalities in health; attitudes to climate change and energy; justice and fairness; and digital social contacts. Some of these topics have been repeated at a later stage.

By measuring the results over time, the data reveals intriguing contrasts and similarities between European countries. This rigorous comparative data collection is then used by the academic community, their research often facilitating pan-European and Member State political, social and economic debate. This allows scholars, policymakers, think tanks and other interested parties to measure and interpret European people's views cross-nationally and over time.

European countries are welcome to join the ESS, even if they have previously not taken part or have been absent for some time. The inclusion of new countries enables ESS ERIC to increase the body of comparative data available and leads to lower costs of participation for all the nations involved.

Support can be provided by the central ESS team to help prepare countries participating for the first time. Once a country has become a Member of the ESS, they must appoint a National Representative with full authority to vote on all issues considered at the General Assembly.

### ROTATING MODULES ARE SELECTED FOR EACH ROUND



## Executive Summary (continued)

Each country must also appoint a National Coordinator to manage the activities of the ESS ERIC within their own country. They have overall responsibility for the successful undertaking of fieldwork for the survey. This is often outsourced to a contractor, but the National Coordinator is ultimately responsible for the national implementation of the ESS interviews.

The ESS annotates its source questionnaire to guide translators in using national instruments so that the survey has the same meaning in every language. The questionnaire is translated into any language spoken as a first language by at least five per cent of each country's population.

In line with the Survey Specification made available for each round, each National Coordinating Team identifies a suitable sampling frame and produces a sample design to be implemented in their country.

The ESS provides comprehensive materials for interviewer training and briefing sessions. It is vital that the interviewing is as consistent as possible



across all European countries, albeit with necessary national adaptation. Briefing sessions explain the ESS project, the questionnaire and rules. All interviewers must be personally briefed once assigned to undertake ESS fieldwork.

The survey fieldwork is conducted during a similar period of time, and all countries aim to achieve an effective sample size of at least 1,500 respondents, though this number is reduced for countries with smaller populations. Once the fieldwork is completed, National Coordinating Teams deposit their data in the ESS data archive.

The ESS continues to build a huge amount of freely accessible data measuring the behaviour and social attitudes of Europeans. The data is available to

download completely free of charge from anywhere in the world. When downloading customisable datasets, users are offered a number of options; they can download information from more than one survey round and for numerous countries. Data files can be downloaded in a number of formats. The Data Portal allows users to choose which variables to include in their own bespoke dataset.

A Multilevel Download makes it possible to add contextual information about countries and regional areas to data from respondents. This was initially funded by the Descartes Prize for Excellence in Scientific Collaborative Research, awarded to the ESS in 2005.

Almost 500,000 face-to-face interviews have been completed since 2002. There are over 230,000 registered users of the data, who can analyse it online through the ESS Data Portal or undertake detailed analysis in programs such as SPSS, R or STATA.

Internal analysis of Google Scholar from 2003-22 found that 6,585 English academic journal articles, books, chapters, conference papers or working papers include significant analysis of ESS data. The Overton database of policy documents discovered 3,246 policy documents from 355 sources in 57 countries that referenced the ESS. ◀

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“The European Social Survey has developed a unique scientific methodology for mapping changes in ... providing an authoritative source of EU data for academics and policy makers.”

Janez Potocnik

Former European Commissioner for Science and Research

# WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY?



## THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ERIC

### The History

The European Social Survey (ESS) is an academically driven cross-national general social survey that has been conducted across Europe since 2002/03. Up until Round 10, every two years face-to-face interviews were conducted in people's homes with newly selected, cross-sectional samples of all those aged 15+ living within a country. Due to national restrictions implemented to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, some countries were allowed to conduct Round 10 fieldwork using self-completion methods for the first time.

The initiative to develop the ESS started in 1995 within the Standing Committee for the Social Sciences of the European Science Foundation (ESF). Committees under the leadership of Professor Sir Roger Jowell (United Kingdom) and Professor Max Kaase (Germany) were established to produce an ESS Blueprint.

With the assistance of Dr. John Smith of the ESF, the basis for a decision to start developing the ESS Project was provided. Sir Roger Jowell was asked to assemble a core team and apply to the European Commission for central funding to be matched by participating countries. This application was successful and the first round of the ESS started in 2001 with fieldwork beginning in 2002.

The survey measures the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of diverse populations in more than thirty nations. The main aims of the ESS are to:

- operate a Research Infrastructure providing high quality data measuring change (and stability) over time within and between European countries in their living conditions, social structure, public opinion and attitudes;
- practise and promote the highest scientific standards in cross-national comparative research in the social sciences;
- continue the development of the ESS infrastructure through ongoing methodological research and innovation;
- facilitate training in the effective use of ESS data;
- ensure the visibility, accessibility and reach of ESS data among researchers in the social sciences and beyond, policy makers and the wider public, at both the national and international level.

In 2005, the ESS was the first social science project to win the annual Descartes Prize for Excellence in Scientific Collaborative Research. Awarded by the European Union, the Descartes Prize was awarded to a transnational team that had achieved exceptional scientific or technological results through collaborative research.

Following an application to the European Commission submitted by the UK on behalf of a total of 15 countries, the ESS was awarded European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) status in November 2013. An ERIC is a fully recognised legal entity under European Union law.

The European Social Survey ERIC was recognised as an ESFRI Landmark by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) in 2016, 2018 and 2021. Becoming a Landmark was a significant achievement for the ESS ERIC and reflected the maturity of the infrastructure.

ESFRI is a strategic instrument of the European Union to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. The ESS was previously included on the ESFRI Roadmap in 2006, 2008 and 2010. The Roadmap identifies research infrastructures of pan-European interest, corresponding to the long-term needs of European research communities, covering all scientific areas.

ESFRI Landmarks are research infrastructures that were implemented or began implementation under previous stages of the ESFRI Roadmap. Only high quality and established research infrastructures are given ESFRI Landmark status - which helps ensure they continue to be recognised by national governments.

In 2023, the ESS participated in an ESFRI Landmark Monitoring exercise and achieved excellent results. As part of the ESFRI process, the ESS now includes key performance indicators (KPIs) in its annual activity report. These provide benchmark statistics for the project that can be measured each year.

## Structure and Governance

The Statutes of the ESS ERIC detail its governance and funding arrangements. The ESS ERIC is governed by a General Assembly which appoints the Director. The General Assembly is formed of National Representatives appointed by the relevant funding agency.

The current Chair of the General Assembly is Professor Ann-Helén Bay (Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway), who was appointed in October 2023. The Deputy Chair is Dr. Susanna Bylin, the delegated representative from the Swedish Research Council.

The ESS ERIC Headquarters (HQ) are based in the School of Policy & Global Affairs at City, University of London. The ESS was the first ERIC to be hosted in the UK.

The Director, Professor Rory Fitzgerald and his team at ESS ERIC HQ, City, University of London, are supported in the design and implementation of the ESS ERIC Work Programme by seven other institutions that collectively comprise the Core Scientific Team (CST). These are:

- Centerdata (Netherlands)
- GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany)
- Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Norway)
- SCP - The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (Netherlands)
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)
- University of Essex (UK)
- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)



Deputy Directors are in post in two institutions:

- Deputy Director: Dr. Eric Harrison, ESS ERIC HQ, City, University of London
- Deputy Director - External: Dr. Angelika Scheuer, GESIS

The General Assembly appoints an independent Chair, who serves for a term of four years (renewable). A Deputy Chair is appointed for a four-year period from amongst the National Representatives who attend the General Assembly.

The General Assembly meets at least twice a year and has four standing committees: a Finance Committee (FinCom); Funding, Governance and Strategy Working Group (FGSWG), Methods Advisory Board (MAB); and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). It is also advised by a Research Ethics Board.

City, University of London has been the Host Institution since 2003 following a brief initial period at the National Centre for Social Research (UK), and this arrangement is reviewed by the General Assembly every four years.

The ESS ERIC Director also convenes a National Coordinators' (NC) Forum, attended by national representatives appointed by the relevant ESS ERIC Member, Observer or Guest funding

body. The NC Forum meets at least twice annually and is also attended by the Core Scientific Team.

The ESS ERIC is a data controller in terms of the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). ESS ERIC is registered with the UK Information Commissioners Office (ICO) with the registration number ZA106409.

The ESS ERIC subscribes to the Declaration on Ethics of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), to which survey agencies who conduct the data collection are asked to adhere, in addition to any co-existing national obligations that they may have.

The ESS ERIC also adheres to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy of City, University of London, UK (the Host Institution of the ESS ERIC), as per a signed declaration (September 2023).

## Operational Activities

As stated in the ESS ERIC Statutes, each country must appoint a National Representative who will sit on the General Assembly. The chosen National Representative will be given full authority to vote on all issues raised during the General Assembly.

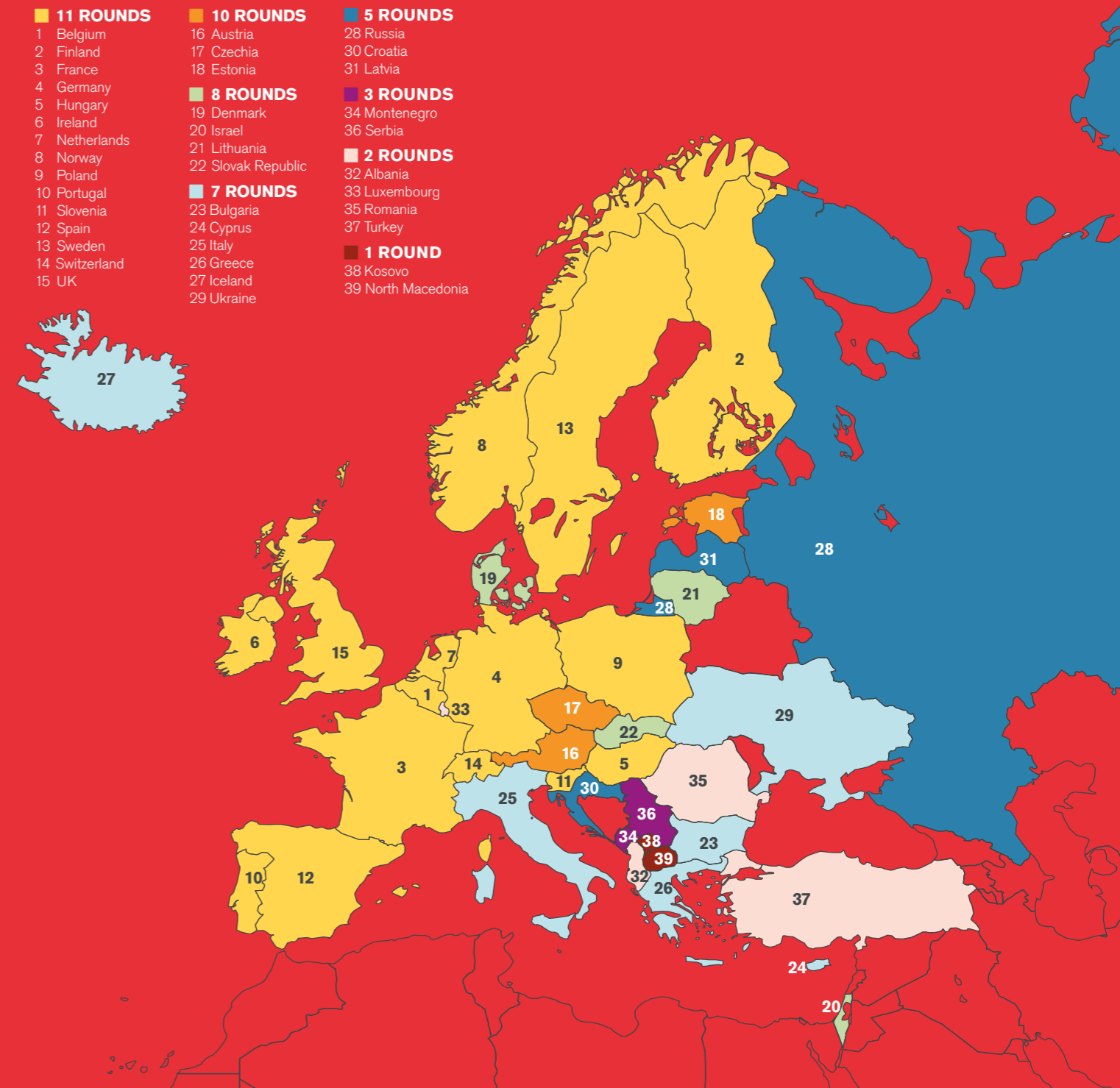
Each country must also appoint a National Coordinator. The key roles of a National Coordinator are to oversee the activities of the ESS ERIC at a national level and ensure it is compliant with the specifications issued by the Director. They also contribute to discussion about survey methodology and questionnaire design.

The National Coordinator has overall responsibility for undertaking the fieldwork for the survey. This can be outsourced to another contractor, but overall responsibility for the fieldwork rests with them. ◀

## ESS Participating Countries

Rounds 1-11

|                  |                    |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>11 ROUNDS</b> | <b>10 ROUNDS</b>   | <b>5 ROUNDS</b>    |
| 1 Belgium        | 16 Austria         | 28 Russia          |
| 2 Finland        | 17 Czechia         | 30 Croatia         |
| 3 France         | 18 Estonia         | 31 Latvia          |
| 4 Germany        | <b>8 ROUNDS</b>    | <b>3 ROUNDS</b>    |
| 5 Hungary        | 19 Denmark         | 34 Montenegro      |
| 6 Ireland        | 20 Israel          | 36 Serbia          |
| 7 Netherlands    | 21 Lithuania       | <b>2 ROUNDS</b>    |
| 8 Norway         | 22 Slovak Republic | 32 Albania         |
| 9 Poland         | <b>7 ROUNDS</b>    | 33 Luxembourg      |
| 10 Portugal      | 23 Bulgaria        | 35 Romania         |
| 11 Slovenia      | 24 Cyprus          | 37 Turkey          |
| 12 Spain         | 25 Italy           | <b>1 ROUND</b>     |
| 13 Sweden        | 26 Greece          | 38 Kosovo          |
| 14 Switzerland   | 27 Iceland         | 39 North Macedonia |
| 15 UK            | 29 Ukraine         |                    |





## JOINING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ERIC AND FINANCIAL DATA

### Country Affiliation to the ESS ERIC

Countries affiliated to the ESS ERIC are defined in three categories: Members, Observers and Guests.

**Members** have full voting rights on the General Assembly and are legally responsible for the ERIC. They have a long-term commitment to the ESS ERIC but they may withdraw from membership by giving notice of two years to the General Assembly, which must be submitted before the end of a biennial survey cycle period.

**Observers** are admitted to the ESS ERIC for a period of four years but have no voting rights and are not legally responsible for the ESS ERIC. To remain as an Observer, they must apply to the General Assembly for an extension.

**Guests** are admitted to the ESS ERIC for a two-year (one round) period. As with Observers, they have no voting rights and are not legally responsible for the ERIC. After two rounds, it is expected that Guest countries apply to become full members.

To join the ESS ERIC, a funding commitment in writing must be made to the General Assembly, from (or at least with support from) a national government, or delegated funding agency.

The benefits of joining the ESS ERIC are multiple. Each country receives the full support of the Core Scientific Team (CST) in preparing for fieldwork and also assistance during data collection. In addition, the CST helps to check the quality of the data as well as carefully compiling a single international data file and curating the data for future use.

Scientists across Europe participate in the MAB, SAB, and NC Forum, all giving active input to the ongoing development of the infrastructure, leading to a high-quality design (as described in Chapter 5) and accessible data and findings as described elsewhere in this Prospectus.

### Costs for Fieldwork, National Coordination and Country Contribution

All Members, Observers and Guests are required to conduct the biennial ESS surveys at their own expense, according to the survey specifications distributed for each round. The National Coordinator is a key source of information when compiling these costs. In their absence potential funders must consult relevant scientists to estimate the costs.

All participating countries are also required to contribute to the central coordination costs of the ESS ERIC. This contribution is made up of a minimum contribution for all countries and - for larger countries - an additional amount, calculated relative to the GDP of each country. Moreover, a substantial financial additional contribution is made by the host country, the United Kingdom.

The central budget for the ESS Work Programme during Round 12 is €5,903,870 or €2,951,935 per annum.

The table right presents the country contributions for Member and Observer countries participating in the eleventh (2021-23) and twelfth (2023-25) rounds.

Member, Observer and Guest countries make equivalent financial contributions. There is no financial benefit in being a Guest country. The aggregate income from Guest countries contributes to the central budget. Guest status allows countries to join and benefit from the experience, leading to future membership.

Funds are also used for promoting the use of the data as well as ensuring the ESS remains at the forefront of methodological developments.

|                           | MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS (€) |                  |                  |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                           | 2021-22                      | 2022-23          | 2023-24          | 2024-25          |
| Hosting Fee (UK)          | 400,000                      | 400,000          | 408,000          | 408,000          |
| Austria                   | 66,247                       | 66,247           | 68,780           | 68,780           |
| Belgium                   | 74,951                       | 74,951           | 78,522           | 78,522           |
| Bulgaria                  | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Croatia                   | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Cyprus                    | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Czechia                   | 46,350                       | 46,350           | 50,201           | 50,201           |
| Estonia                   | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Finland                   | 49,081                       | 49,081           | 52,117           | 52,117           |
| France                    | 291,428                      | 291,428          | 292,998          | 292,998          |
| Germany                   | 404,629                      | 404,629          | 411,261          | 411,261          |
| Hungary                   | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Iceland                   | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Ireland                   | 59,261                       | 59,261           | 67,754           | 67,754           |
| Israel                    | 59,642                       | 59,642           | 66,560           | 66,560           |
| Italy                     | 223,632                      | 223,632          | 218,932          | 218,932          |
| Latvia                    | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Lithuania                 | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Netherlands               | 110,663                      | 110,663          | 116,804          | 116,804          |
| Norway                    | 63,540                       | 63,540           | 65,364           | 65,364           |
| Montenegro                | n/a                          | n/a              | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Poland                    | 79,277                       | 79,277           | 85,338           | 85,338           |
| Portugal                  | 45,826                       | 45,826           | 47,691           | 47,691           |
| Serbia                    | n/a                          | n/a              | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Slovakia                  | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Slovenia                  | 22,500                       | 22,500           | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Spain                     | n/a                          | n/a              | 157,432          | 157,432          |
| Sweden                    | 76,540                       | 76,540           | 80,004           | 80,004           |
| Switzerland               | 91,842                       | 91,842           | 99,194           | 99,194           |
| UK                        | 299,978                      | 299,978          | 309,981          | 309,981          |
| <b>ERIC Annual Budget</b> | <b>2,667,887</b>             | <b>2,667,887</b> | <b>2,951,935</b> | <b>2,951,935</b> |



## Procedures to Apply for Participation

To apply to participate in the ESS ERIC, applications for membership should be made in writing to the Chair of the General Assembly, copied to the Director.

In the letter, potential new members should explain how they will fulfil the requirement to undertake the survey in their country at their own expense and to the specifications set out by the Director and agreed by the General Assembly. A template can be provided from the office of the Director.

Once a letter from an applicant is received, the General Assembly will enact a simple majority vote to decide whether the new country can be included. Any application must be approved by the country's relevant Government ministry, though private enterprises can sometimes fund participation for Guest status countries.

Requests from third countries to the European Union require approval from the European Commission. The procedure to apply for participation with Guest status is similar and described in a document which is available on request.

## Auditing of ESS ERIC Accounts

The accounts of ESS ERIC are audited professionally and independently.

The Independent auditor's report to the General Assembly of European Social Survey European Research Infrastructure Consortium stated:

*We [Buzacott LLP] have audited the financial statements of European Social Survey European Research Infrastructure Consortium (the 'ERIC') for the year ended 31 May 2023 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements.*

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable in law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Auditor: Buzacott LLP, London, United Kingdom

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ERIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 2023.

|   | 1 June 2022<br>to 31 May<br>2023<br>€ | 1 June 2022<br>to 31 May<br>2023<br>€ |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                   | <b>3,159,734</b>                      | <b>1,171,275</b>                      |
| Direct Costs                                    | (3,133,692)                           | (4,326,154)                           |
| <b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>                            | <b>26,042</b>                         | <b>127,209</b>                        |
| Administrative expenses                         | (86,556)                              | (87,951)                              |
| <b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b> | <b>(60,514)</b>                       | <b>39,258</b>                         |

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the ERIC's affairs as at 31 May 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

**“ Public attitudes matter in democratic societies. They reflect what citizens believe, want, fear and prefer. They are difficult to measure, are often unexpressed, and cannot be inferred from electoral choices alone... This is why the ESS exists. It is specifically designed to meet the exacting demands of academics, policymakers and civil society alike for rigorous cross-national data on social attitudes and behaviour. ”**

**Professor Sir Roger Jowell CBE**  
Co-founder of the ESS



# A BIENNIAL CROSS-NATIONAL SOCIAL SURVEY OF HIGH QUALITY

## Methodological Rigour

By sharing the central costs of coordinating the ESS and covering only their own national costs, each participant gets access to high quality comparative data that helps to provide context to their own national data.

The high-quality methodology and data collection makes the ESS more expensive than less rigorous surveys. There are a number of reasons that justify this investment:

1. In order to make comparisons between countries it is necessary to design and implement a survey in an equivalent manner. Otherwise differences between countries may reflect methodological rather than real substantive differences.
2. As less scientific but cheaper methods are frequently used by social scientists it is necessary to have high quality benchmark data. The ESS plays that role for social scientists acting as a gold standard data source. The ESS is not an opinion poll conducted using non-scientific methods over a short time period and should not be compared to them in terms of costs or methods.
3. Alternatives to survey data such as administrative, transactional and social media data cannot be tailored to the theoretical research questions, limiting the academic rigour of any analysis.
4. Alternatives to survey data outlined in 3.

are rarely available to the same extent or format cross-nationally hindering their utility for comparative work. There are also few sources of alternative data that cover the attitudinal focus of the ESS.

The ESS therefore utilises and develops best practice and scientifically driven methods which are required to produce the high-quality outputs on which social scientists rely.

Questionnaires at each round of the survey cover a range of topics that tap into key issues facing contemporary Europe. The questionnaire takes an average of one hour to administer in British English but longer in some other countries. All countries are required to administer the questionnaire using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing.

## A Self-Completion future

Due to national measures implemented to help stop the spread of Coronavirus, some countries were unable to conduct face-to-face fieldwork in Round 10. A total of nine countries switched to a self-completion (web and paper) approach, while 22 countries used the usual face-to-face approach.

In May 2022, the ESS ERIC General Assembly endorsed a plan to transition data collection from face-to-face interviews to a 'web first self-completion' design.

Following a series of reviews and consultations with internal key stakeholders, the Core Scientific Team (CST) recommended that the change take place due to diminishing face-to-face interviewer capacity in some countries and improving data quality from self-completion methods.

The ESS will begin collecting data solely through web and paper self-completion surveys from Round 13, due to take place in 2027/28. As part of the change, Round 12 (2025/26) fieldwork will be conducted in all participating countries in both modes. In each country, half the sample will be interviewed via face-to-face interviews, with the other half receiving a self-completion questionnaire. This can be answered as a web and or paper version. To ease this transition, the CST took advice from four experts - Andrew Cleary (Ipsos International Social Research), Peter Lugtig (Utrecht University), Laura Wilson (Office for National Statistics, ONS) and Ranjit Singh (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences).



## Questionnaire Design

Developed by leading European subject specialists, the questionnaire combines continuity with change through a consistent core module and rotating modules - selected via a Europe-wide competition.

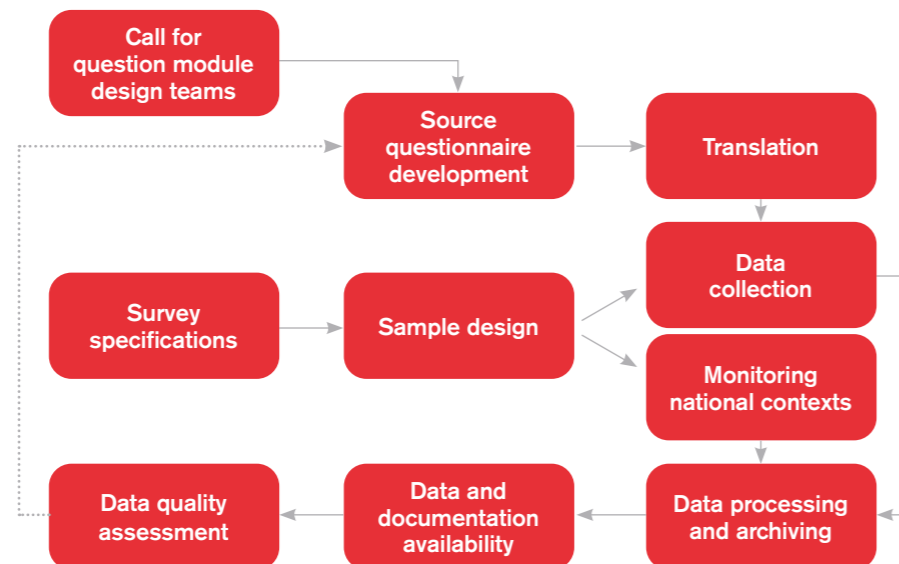
### Core module:

The ESS was primarily designed as a time series that could monitor changing attitudes and values across Europe. For this reason its questionnaire comprises one core module containing items measuring a range of topics of enduring interest to the social sciences as well as the most comprehensive set of socio-structural ('background') variables of any cross-national general social survey. The exact number of items can change from round to round but each question has a unique variable name to assist users working with data over time.

### Rotating modules:

In each ESS Round, multi-national teams of researchers are selected to contribute to the design of two rotating modules for the questionnaire. Rotating modules are selected following an open Call for Proposals. Applicants may apply for 'new' modules or 'repeat' ones, which allow comparisons with previous ESS rounds. Repeated modules typically include a majority of questions that have been fielded before but there is scope for some new items.

Up until Round 13, rotating modules of approximately 30 questions, which vary from round to round, have been selected. Each rotating module covers a single academic and/or policy concern within Europe and is drafted by a competitively selected team. The chosen Question Module Design Teams (QDTs) work closely with the Core Scientific Team (CST) of the ESS to develop their modules.



**“ Access to high quality comparative data will help us to improve our understanding of the profound social, political, economic and demographic changes occurring in Europe as well as the relationship between Europe and the rest of the world. ”**

**Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**  
Former European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

For the first time, the Call for Round 13 Rotating Modules is open to teams of researchers to apply for either 15 or 30 item modules. The option to include a 15-item module has been introduced for Round 13 to encourage applications on relevant topics that may not require as many as 30 questions.

Round 10 (2020-22), included two rotating modules: Europeans' understandings and evaluations of democracy (repeated from Round 6) and Digital social contacts in work and family life (a new module). Additionally, a special COVID-19 module was fielded by countries on a voluntary basis.

In Round 11 (2023/24), two rotating modules have been selected: Gender in contemporary Europe: Rethinking equality and the backlash (a new module) and Social Inequalities in health and their determinants (repeated from Round 7).

Round 12 (2025/26) will include two repeated modules for the first time: Personal and social wellbeing (fielded in rounds 3 and 6) and Attitudes to immigrants and refugees (fielded in rounds 1 and 7).

Rotating modules are subject to expert review, input from national teams, cognitive interviewing in multiple countries, stages of quantitative pre-testing and advanced translation.

## Test Questionnaire

The ESS includes a set of experiments in every round to evaluate the reliability and validity of ESS questions. These Multi Trait Multi Method (MTMM) experiments have also been used to populate a Survey Quality Predictor (SQP) database which helps questionnaire designers to predict the reliability and validity of draft questionnaire items prior to fielding them.

## Translation

**In cross-national research in which the data collection is administered in various languages, it is vital that translation is undertaken to the highest possible quality.**

Words and phrases such as 'democracy', 'social life' or 'unification' can mean different things to different people at different times in different countries. The ESS annotates its source questionnaire in an attempt to ensure that a translation conveying the same meaning can be used in all countries.

The ESS uses a team approach to translation involving several stages of review, adjudication, pre-testing and documentation. To ensure that the survey is fully representative of any given country, the questionnaire is translated into each language spoken as a first language by more than five per cent of each country's population.



**“ The ESS annotates its source questionnaire in an attempt to ensure that a translation conveying the same meaning can be used in all countries. ”**

The ESS strives to achieve a principle of equivalence with regard to its translations. Translation procedures of the ESS are guided by the requirements outlined in the Specification for Participating Countries and the following key principles:

- The ESS source questionnaire is designed in British English before it is translated. Each national team then translates it into one or more target languages.
- The ESS follows TRAPD methodology - Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting and Documentation.
- All national teams are provided with detailed Translation Guidelines and a Translation Quality Checklist which outlines the procedures to be followed
- Following translation, a selection of items are subject to two innovative additional steps - verification and survey quality predictor (SQP) coding
- All translated questionnaires must be pre-tested following the completion of verification and SQP coding

The ESS Translation process is overseen by an ESS Translation team, assisted by a Translation Expert Panel (TEP). The Panel's role is to advise the ESS on translation-related matters. These relate both to the general ESS translation strategies and to specific issues where the ESS Translation Team and/or the ESS Core Scientific Team seek external expertise. The Panel holds meetings, normally once every ESS round, and provides expert input in-between when applicable.



## Sampling

The objective of the ESS sampling strategy is the design and implementation of workable and equivalent sampling plans in all participating countries. Sampling in the ESS is guided by the requirements outlined in the specification for participating countries and the following key principles:

- Samples must be representative of all persons aged 15 and over (no upper age limit) resident within private households in each country, regardless of their nationality, citizenship or language
- Individuals are selected by strict random probability methods at every stage
- Sampling frames of individuals, households and addresses may be used

- All countries must aim for a minimum 'effective achieved sample size' of 1,500, or 800 in countries with ESS populations of less than 2 million after discounting for design effects
- Quota sampling is not permitted at any stage
- Substitution of non-responding households or individuals (whether 'refusals', 'non-contacts' or 'ineligibles') is not permitted at any stage

Each National Coordinating team is responsible for identifying (or generating) a suitable sampling frame and producing a sample design suitable for implementation in their country. They are supported in this task by a member of the ESS Sampling and Weighting Expert Panel who is assigned to assist them.

## Interviewer Training

ESS interviewers must be trained (task specific) and briefed (project specific). The Core Scientific Team (CST) provides a series of pre-structured slides and related materials to be used as the basis for briefing sessions.

Briefing is different from training in that it is project specific, i.e., it describes the ESS project, the ESS questionnaire, and ESS rules. All interviewers must be personally briefed by the NC or Survey Agency upon being hired for a survey round and before carrying out their assignment. Their briefing must cover in detail how to code observation data, how to follow contact procedures and complete the contact forms, and how to follow respondent selection procedures (if applicable).

## Data Preparation and Deposits

A unique quantitative source of data about stable as well as changing European attitudes, the European Social Survey makes its data freely available to all for non-commercial use.

Access to the ESS datasets, each covering over 20 countries and including more than 350,000 face-to-face interviews across Europe, is available via the ESS data website. Highly user-friendly, it offers data users the options of conducting simple analyses online, and of downloading all or parts of the dataset for more detailed or complex analysis.

The ESS fieldwork period will last at least one month within a six-month period, usually between September and February. It is the responsibility of the National Coordinating Team to undertake fieldwork and deposit their data in the ESS data archive once the fieldwork has been completed.

There are no restrictions on access, nor any privileged arrangements for certain users. So scholars, journalists, researchers, the general public and those most intimately involved in running the project all have equal and simultaneous access to the data. In addition, they have access to a comprehensive technical report and supporting data that describe and explain all aspects of the project. However commercial use of the data is not generally allowed. ◀

**“The ESS enables governments, policy analysts and scholars to keep up with societal trends that affect how democracy is working and how European citizens perceive their lives, their nation and the world.”**

**David Willetts**  
Former UK Universities Minister

# A RICH TOOL FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In this data driven age, equipping the next generation in data literacy is more critical than ever before. ESS data is therefore an important resource for educating the social scientists of the future. By using data from the ESS, junior social scientists can be equipped with the analytical and communication skills that are vital to careers in numerous sectors. Repeat cross-sectional surveys such as the ESS provide the policy makers of tomorrow with the data required to develop the skills needed to better understand their society for the benefit of everyone.

In countries without developed data infrastructures, the ESS provides a nationally meaningful yet comparative data source that attracts thousands of users from across Europe. Whilst some of these users go on to be social scientists many others take those data skills into other fields and careers. The ESS provides a tool for teaching data skills to help equip the next generation for the data driven age.

## Training Courses

The ESS training courses focus on key aspects of the survey lifecycle from a comparative, cross-national perspective. The specific aim is to equip researchers with the skills and knowledge they need to improve the rigour and equivalence of cross-national survey research in the European context.

Training sessions are offered in person or online, and relate to survey questionnaire design, translation, collecting responses, methodology, weighting and data analysis. They are taught by experts in the field of social sciences, face to face or via the ESS website.



## Registered User Statistics

The ESS ERIC is a major European facility offering access to an ever-increasing body of data on Europeans' social attitudes and behaviours. Users can view or download data from the ESS Data Portal following a short registration. All data is available for free to anyone. The ESS User Statistics provide comprehensive insights into the usage of ESS data since its launch in 2002.

The report segments users into three groups:

- **Registered Users:** Individuals who have registered to use ESS data
- **Data Downloaders:** Registered users who have downloaded ESS data at least once.
- **Active downloaders:** Registered users who have downloaded ESS data in any given month.

There are more than 230,000 registered ESS data users and ESS data has been downloaded by 175,330 users (February 2024). In the 2023 calendar year, there were 21,582 active downloaders.

Registered users and data downloaders can be assessed by country of affiliation, user activity (students, faculty members, private individual, etc.) and data type (ESS round, cumulative data, multilevel data, etc). Further information can be found via the ESS website.

FIG. 1 Registered ESS Users since Dec 2005

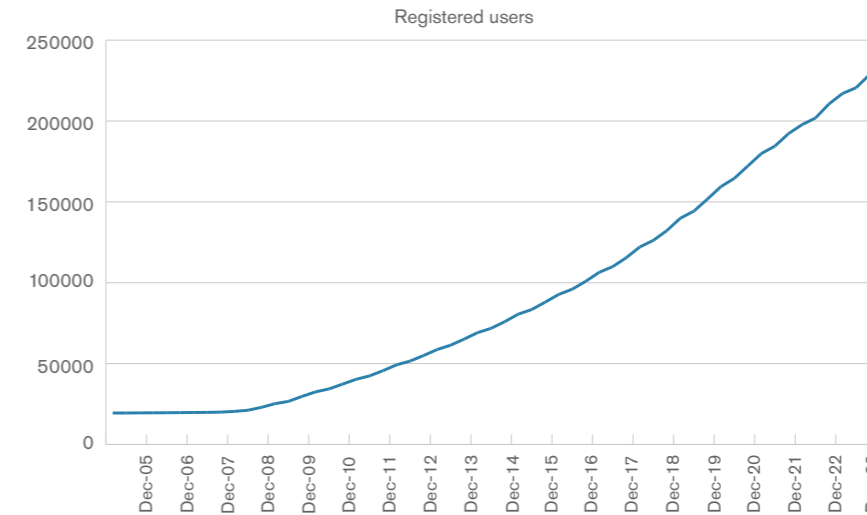
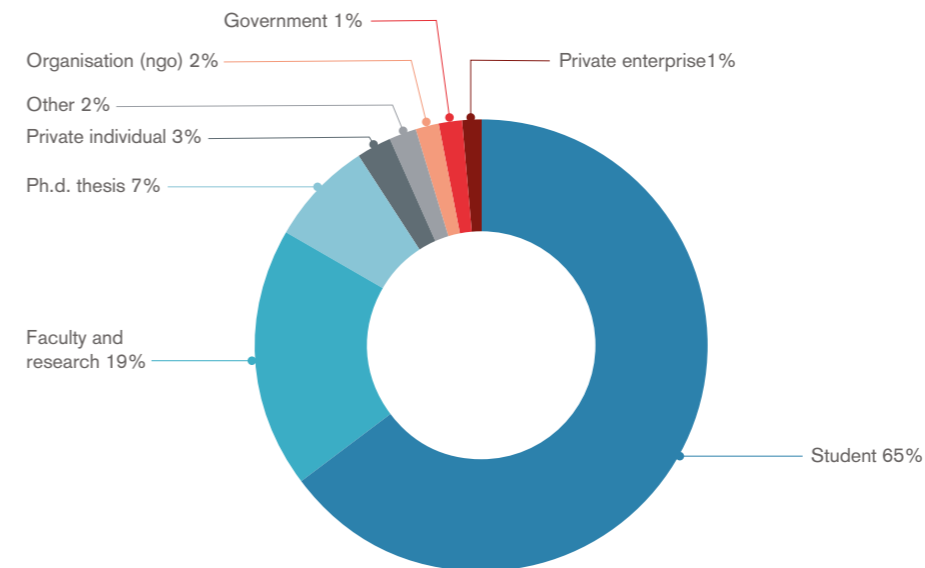


FIG. 2 Data downloaders type of user activity



## ESS Bibliography

The ESS Bibliography tool is available online and contains information about many of the publications based on the cross-national European Social Survey. This includes analysis of ESS data, ESS methodology research and descriptions, and documentation of the ESS.

For academic texts listed, the Bibliography provides full publication details including the title, year of publication, author(s) and publisher. The Bibliography allows users to find out if the author(s) used ESS data in other publications or search for the book online.

The overall number of ESS based academic publications continues to grow, due to ESS questionnaire content, high quality standards, dense time series, open access and excellent online tools.

The online Bibliography is updated periodically to ensure that most academic publications using ESS data are logged and searchable for all data users. There is a self-report facility that allows published authors to log their research by entering a DOI number and confirming the details. The Bibliography includes reference information for almost 1,000 articles that have been added by academics and researchers who have analysed ESS data. €

## DATA AND DOCUMENTATION WITH UNRESTRICTED ACCESS

### Datasets Available without Additional Costs

The ESS data is available free of charge for non-commercial use and can be downloaded from the ESS Data Portal after a short registration.

All information gathered since 2001 is included online. Each new survey in the series provides another layer of accurate data to inform academic debate and European governance.

It allows governments, policy analysts, scholars, students and members of the public to interpret how people in different countries and at different times see themselves and the world around them.

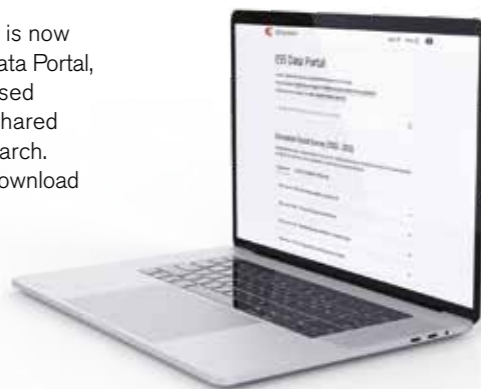
With a view to exchanging best practice worldwide, all ESS protocols, methods, procedures and data are made available to everyone. It is completely transparent.

### ESS Data Portal

All ESS data and documentation is now only available through the ESS Data Portal, operated by our data archive based at Sikt-Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research. The Data Portal allows users to download data in two main ways:

- Integrated file: For each round of the ESS, a dataset that includes all participating countries is provided. This can be downloaded in CSV, SPSS or Stata file formats.
- Datafile Builder (Wizard): This allows users to create a bespoke subset of data by selecting country/countries; round(s) of data collection; and variables. These bespoke files can be downloaded in CSV, SPSS or Stata file formats.

Additionally, data collected from the interviewer's questionnaire, and contact form data is available, alongside all the documentation related to that round (the questionnaire, showcards, etc). Registered users can also view individual results from each item via the variable visualisation tool. This automatically weights the data correctly and offers a graphical representation of the results. Results are displayed by mean response in each country but all response options are displayed in a graph, map and table. The results of each variable can be downloaded in PNG, PDF, SVG and XLSX formats. More than one variable can be assessed in this way.



**“ We host two ERICs - the European Social Survey based at City, University of London, and Instruct, an ERIC looking at integrated structural biology based at the University of Oxford - and we are a member of 12 consortia...**

**The projects are extremely important. They feed into research communities right across the UK, including in marine sciences, astrophysics, human health, welfare and societal changes, and they provide world-class collaboration for our world-leading scientists. ”**

**Claire Perry**

Former UK Minister for Energy and Clean Growth

### Multilevel and Contextual Data

The purpose of ESS Multilevel Data is to make it easier for the research community to understand the context in which ESS respondents lived at the time of interview. It means additional data about participating countries and regions where respondents live, can be added to ESS data.

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a geocode standard for referencing the subdivisions of countries for statistical purposes. It was developed and regulated by the European Union and applies to European Union, European Free Trade Association and candidate countries.

The Multilevel Download makes it possible to add information about countries and several regional levels to the respondents in the ESS data. The country specific region variable decides how it is possible to merge contextual data on regions to the individual level ESS data.

The contextual variables are collected to shed light upon themes such as:

- Demography and geography
- Economy
- Health
- Education
- Crime
- Political institutions
- Composite measures

Most variables are available for several years. The ESS Multilevel Data was partly funded by the Descartes Research Prize awarded to the ESS in 2005. €



# FINDINGS FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY

## ROTATING MODULES ADDRESSING KEY SOCIAL THEMES

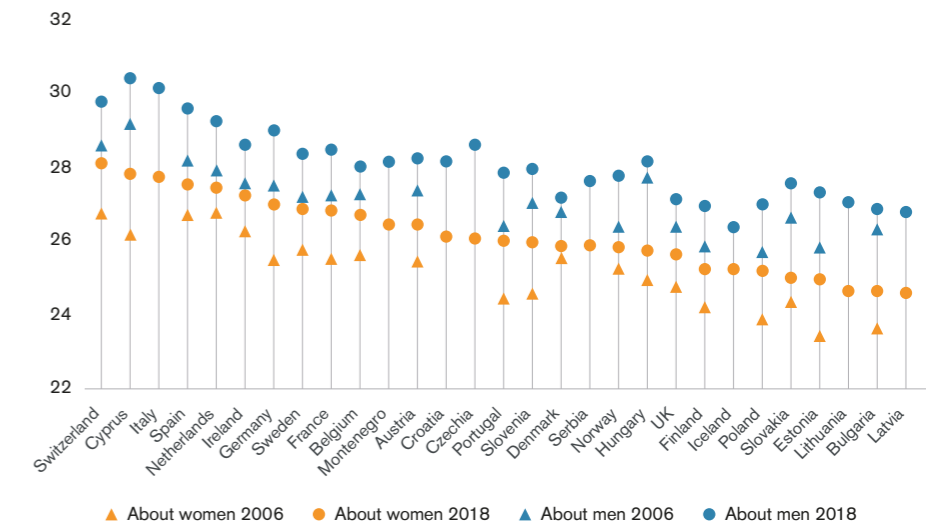
### The Timing of Life

A rotating module fielded in Round 3 (2006/07) and repeated in Round 9 (2018/19) focused on attitudes towards the timing of key life events and related moral views. The latest iteration of the module was proposed by a team led by Professor Francesco Billari (Bocconi University).

A split ballot questionnaire design allowed analysts to consider if views on this issue differ for males and females at different stages of the life course. The latest iteration of the module found significant differences between countries and genders in the average perceived age that people become an adult.

Data gathered in Round 3 (2006/07) and Round 9 (2018/19) documents remarkable differences in scripts of life across Europe. Broadly speaking there is a widespread and growing postponement of life transitions. While the gender revolution has made women's and men's lives more similar, there are instances in which the script for women remains substantially different from that for men. This is apparent in the ages at which they are deemed to become 'adult', 'middle aged' and 'old'.

**FIG. 3** Average ideal age at parenthood in 2006/07 and 2018/19 for women and men



Source: European Social Survey Round 9, 2018; post-stratification weights have been applied for country-level analysis. Measure: "In your opinion, what is the ideal age for a girl/boy or woman/man to become a mother/father".

The data also documented a visible gap concerning first birth: ideals and behaviour are systematically different, with earlier ages of entering parenthood being viewed as more desirable than the actual ones. Across all societies, it was observed that there is an increasing tolerance for unmarried cohabitation. Finally, the data documented a gap between the ideal ages of retirement and the ages of eligibility or mandatory retirement, which are higher than the ideal ages.

Specifically, respondents in the UK and Czechia perceive women to become adults at 18 - the lowest average age of any country - whereas Bulgarian men are not seen as becoming adults by their fellow Bulgarians until they are almost 26 years old. Public attitudes towards the average upper age limit of living with parents ranged from 25 years old in Denmark (for both men and women) to 34 years old for Italian men.

The average ideal age for parenthood has risen since 2006/07 - the latest data ranges from around 25-28 for women and 27-30 for men. The perceived ideal age of retirement has also risen for men and women in all countries where data is available from both 2006/07 and 2018/19, in most countries the average ideal retirement age is lower than the mandatory retirement age. Round 9 (2018/19) data shows that respondents think the ideal age of retirement ranges from just over 57 for Bulgarian women and 60 for Montenegrin men to 66 (Icelandic women) and 67 (Icelandic men).

## European Attitudes towards Democracy

Questions on democracy were first included in Round 6 (2012/13) and repeated in Round 10 (2020-22). The most recent iteration was proposed by a team led by Dr. Mónica Ferrín (Universidade of A Coruña).

The rotating module on democracy fielded in rounds 6 and 10 of the ESS provides data on how Europeans think about democracy. Questions focused on two aspects of democracy: how respondents think their democratic systems should be and how they actually perform. This is an issue of key importance in light of the alleged legitimacy crisis European democracies have undergone in the past decades.

Around 30 questions on the topic were first asked in Round 6 (2012/13) of the survey, with the majority of these questions repeated in Round 10 (2020-22). This allowed the team who proposed this repeat module - led by Mónica Ferrín (University of A Coruña) - to assess similarities and differences amongst respondents nearly a decade apart. The survey measured support for electoral, liberal, social and direct democracy in both rounds with a populist model added to the most recent round.

Overall, results show that support for core elements of liberal democracy remain strong among Europeans. In a decade of multiple crises that may have been expected to cause growing dissatisfaction with democratic performance - or even disillusionment with democracy itself - there is little in the new data to indicate either.

As in 2012/13, support for liberal and social-democratic models of democracy was strongest in most countries, with the liberal model being dominant in the wealthiest countries. By comparison, support for direct and populist models of democracy, which diverge from or even oppose the liberal model, is lower, albeit still considerable.

Both items that were used to capture populist understandings of democracy, referring to the unobstructed will of the people and the views of ordinary people always prevailing over those of elites, have mean values of support in the upper quartile of the scale. However, this support does not come at the price of dwindling support for liberal democracy.

The 'democratic deficit' or gap between democratic aspirations and evaluations that already became apparent in Round 6 (see Ferrín and Kriesi 2016) could still be found in the repeat module. Across the different dimensions, democratic performance fails to match citizens' aspirations. At the same time, the comparison of evaluations in 2012/13 and 2020-22 does not show the consistently more negative evaluations that might have been expected in the face of multiple crises.

Instead, the picture is a more nuanced one, with more negative evaluations in some and considerable improvement in other dimensions. In particular, performance in dimensions associated with the social-democratic model was evaluated better in 2020-22 than in 2012/13 - possibly an effect of many governments' efforts to counteract economic effects

of the pandemic. Regarding the populist model of democracy, the gap is particularly large, with citizens on average evaluating democracy in their own country as a little populist.

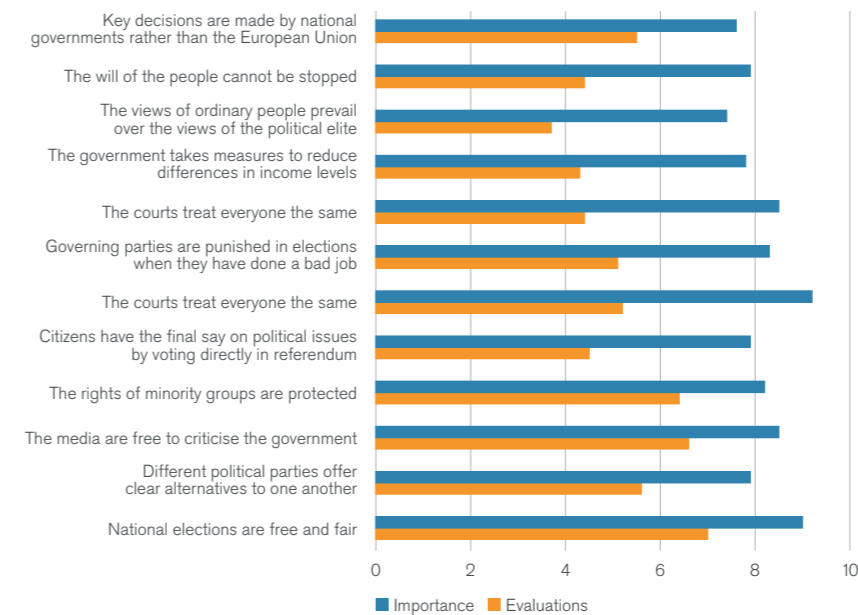
European citizens remain strongly committed to the core elements of liberal democracy. Given authoritarian challenges and attempts to undermine public support for liberalism and democracy, the stability of support for democracy in a decade of multiple crises is reassuring. Even if the deficit between aspirations and evaluations persists and remains an ailment to be addressed in public debates and with institutional adaptations and reforms, attitudes predominantly supportive of liberal democracy are an important factor for the resilience of European democracies.

## Attitudes towards Immigration

Survey questions on Immigration are included in every round. A more comprehensive set of Immigration questions were also included in rotating modules fielded in Round 1 (2002/03) and Round 7 (2014/15). An updated version of this module - Attitudes to immigrants and refugees led by Professor Anthony Heath (Centre for Social Investigation (CSI), University of Oxford) - is being fielded in Round 12 (2025/26).

Immigration continues to be one of the most topical and pressing political issues in Europe, with voters in many countries rating it high on the political agenda, and new 'radical right' political parties focussed on opposition to migration emerging in many countries. With continuing high levels of labour migration to many rich western European countries, as well as continuing pressure to accept asylum seekers from war zones around the world, this topic is unlikely to lose its political significance in the foreseeable future.

FIG. 4 Democratic views and evaluations in 2020-22



Source: European Social Survey Round 10, 2020; post-stratification weights are used; questionnaire self completion countries were: Austria, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Poland, Serbia, Spain and Sweden.

Government responses to immigration and the refugee crisis are in part driven by public opinion and the fear that voters will be or already have been disenchanted by liberal immigration policies. However, the public's views tend to be much more nuanced than is often realised. In round 7 (2014/15), for example, respondents were found to be more sympathetic to highly skilled migrants than to low-skilled and poorly educated migrants. They also saw commitment to the destination country's way of life, the ability to speak the country's language and work skills as the key criteria for accepting migrants.

Data from Round 7 (2014/15) provides another challenge to prevailing assumptions about the drivers of anti-immigrant sentiment. Negative attitudes towards immigration do not straightforwardly relate to the numbers of migrants arriving in a country. For example Iceland and Sweden

have relatively high net migration rates yet are the two countries most favourable to immigration. The drivers of anti-immigration sentiment are more complex than is usually supposed.

Round 7 (2014/15) data - and comparison with Round 1 (2002/03) and Round 12 (2025/26) data - will allow scholars to conduct a thorough examination of the drivers of these cross-national differences and of change over time in anti-immigrant sentiment. It is already, for example, enabling academics and researchers to compare the importance of competition for jobs and housing with concerns about a country's ability to assimilate migrants from different religious and cultural traditions. It will continue to shed new light on the warmth of the welcome for different kinds of migrants, such as those from Muslim countries, or those who are refugees.

## Social Inequalities in Health

Data was collected on health inequalities across Europe in a Round 7 (2014/15) rotating module. This module has been largely repeated in Round 11 (2023/24) following a successful application by Terje Eikemo and Mirza Balaj (CHAIN - Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research).

In 2005 the World Health Organisation set up a 'Commission on the Social Determinants of Health' which systematically examined the contribution of social determinants to health inequalities within and between countries. Since publication of its final report in 2008, various national governments have commissioned similar reports (such as the Marmot Review of Health Inequalities in England), as has the European Union. The social determinants of health and health inequalities have therefore become increasingly recognised as of significance to population health.

However, there is little by way of comprehensive pan-European data on the social determinants of health, or on a range of health outcomes. The core module of the ESS contains detailed data on a number of social determinant variables (e.g. unemployment, occupational classes, family structure, dimensions of social capital, income etc.), but less on health (apart from self-rated health and limiting long term illness) and does not cover other key determinants (such as lifestyles) at all. In general, social surveys lack rich information on health and lifestyles, and health surveys lack detailed information on the social structure of societies.

Including a rotating module on the social determinants of health has helped address this problem. In addition to measures that were already present in the earlier waves of the ESS, this rotating module includes items



on chronic conditions, BMI, healthcare use and access, risk behaviour, working conditions, housing, unpaid care and childhood conditions. ESS data has now become a key source of health and health determinants evidence for both policy makers and researchers within comparative health research.

It has been increasingly recognised by European governments that those interventions which positively change the social determinants can improve health and reduce health inequalities. However, all the official reports have highlighted the lack of evidence on ways to improve health inequalities. Of course, one way to do this is to commission more experimental evaluations of interventions. Another is to conduct more “natural experiments” of existing policies and interventions by comparing different countries.

The rotating module on the social determinants of health and health inequalities has helped to achieve this by creating and making publicly available a comprehensive and comparable pan-European dataset, which includes a wide

range of health outcomes. The influence of different European policy arrangements (policy regimes) on health and health inequalities can then be compared. Additionally, as the module includes a range of validated mental and physical health outcomes then such comparisons will be more extensive and specific than previous ones using ESS data.

In addition, the module will help researchers to examine and compare the influence of the social determinants of health, with the intention of testing the relative empirical contribution of the different theories of health and health inequalities (cultural-behavioural, material and psychosocial), and how this might vary by country and policy context.

It has not been possible to do this on a pan-European scale before. Establishing which of the models is most influential on various health outcomes across different European countries is important. This is in terms of both theory-development and thinking about priorities for policy actions to improve population health and/or reduce health inequalities.

## Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe

Welfare attitudes across Europe were included in the Round 4 (2008/09) survey and was repeated in Round 8 (2016/17) having been proposed by a team led by Professor Wim van Oorschot (Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven). Some welfare questions are included in the core module.

In all European countries the welfare state with its social benefits and services became substantially challenged in the past decades. For instance, intensified international economic competition threatens the redistributive capacity of national welfare states, while population aging, new family arrangements and increasing labour market flexibility confront the welfare state with new social risks that have to be taken care of. However, the welfare state is not only challenged by structural changes, increasingly it is also subjected to more ideologically grounded accusations of undermining individual autonomy and responsibility, of damaging traditional social ties and of weakening private forms of solidarity and self-help.

As a result, substantial welfare reforms are visible in many European countries, although they often take different forms and directions depending on national legacies and circumstances. But in all cases traditional solidarities, such as between older and younger generations, between rich and poor, between active and inactive people are under pressure. For many, the solidarity between natives and newcomers has turned into a central welfare issue. Basically, the cohesion of European societies, to which the traditional welfare state has contributed so much, has become a major concern.

The welfare attitudes of European populations play an important role in opening or blocking the way for intended welfare reform measures, while they also strongly affect the social legitimacy of measures taken. This makes it important to know, not only what people’s attitudes are to present-day welfare debates and policies, but also how the public feels about the future of their welfare states. The European Social Survey modules on welfare attitudes are designed to generate this kind of knowledge.

The initial welfare module found that there seem to be two European worlds. In the north-west people generally endorse the principle of redistribution and welfare state responsibility for citizen’s well-being and they evaluate positively the way in which these principles are implemented. In the south and east people endorse the principles but are mostly disappointed by the benefits and services that are actually delivered to them.

As for the general legitimacy of the welfare state, it was found that quite a few Europeans are critical about the moral and economic consequences of welfare provision by the state (e.g. that welfare would make people less responsible for each other and themselves, that welfare would be bad for people’s work ethic and for economic competitiveness), but Europeans even more so see the social advantages of welfare provision (that welfare reduces inequality and stimulates social order, and that welfare provision leads to better quality of life for many).

The repeat module in Round 8 (2016/17) supported these initial findings but also explored some new welfare policy ideas. The percentage of respondents that support the introduction of a universal basic income scheme varies widely, from 33.9% (Norway) to 80.4% (Lithuania). Support for a universal basic income is lower in more affluent



countries in Northern and Western Europe, and higher in the less wealthy welfare states in the East and South. Over 60% of respondents in Lithuania, Russia, Hungary, Israel, Slovenia and Portugal support the introduction of a universal basic income.

67% of those interviewed across Europe support the introduction of a EU-wide social benefit scheme that would guarantee a minimum standard of living for the poor. But, on average, only three in ten Europeans (30.5%) believe that more European Union involvement would lead to higher or much higher levels of social protection. As with the introduction of basic income, support for EU involvement is higher amongst those in Eastern and Southern European countries where welfare expenditure is relatively low.

The vast majority of people in Europe are open to allowing immigrants access to social benefits and services, but with some conditions. The report’s authors found that fewer than 10% of respondents think that immigrants should never be allowed access to the welfare state, whilst only 9% believe that they should be granted full access to benefits and services immediately upon arrival. 43.1% of respondents think that social rights should be granted to immigrants following residence and payment of taxes for at least a year, with a further 29.1% thinking they should only be granted to citizens. When comparing responses to identical questions asked in Round 4 (2008/09) of the European Social Survey, the authors found no evidence that the refugee crisis led to more opposition to immigrants receiving social benefits.

## Public Attitudes to Climate Change and Energy

Proposed by a team led by Professor Wouter Poortinga (Cardiff University) a rotating module on climate change and energy was included in Round 8 (2016/17) for the first time. Some of the questions have since been added to the core questionnaire.

Global climate change is one of the major environmental threats the world is currently facing. The ways in which individuals, governments and the international community respond to the threat is to a large extent contingent on the public views about the reality and consequences of climate change. The fundamental shifts in energy use and production that are needed to mitigate climate change can only be met by sustained public support for action. There are however large differences in public understanding of climate change and the willingness to take and support action. Public perceptions tend to vary across countries and cultural-political groups and also fluctuate over time.

Various studies have tried to understand the complexities of public opinion on climate change. Psychological research has shown that the willingness to take individual action is largely dependent on concerns about the environment and personal norms. Views on climate change appear to have become politicised. In particular in the US, national surveys show increasing polarization according to political ideology and party identification. While in the UK politically conservative and disengaged groups are more likely to express a climate sceptical view and less likely to support action on climate change, there is no evidence for further polarisation over time.





The inclusion of a climate change module in Round 8 (2016/17) was specifically designed to create a comprehensive, theoretically grounded dataset that will help to make robust comparisons of Europeans' perceptions of climate change, energy security and energy preferences. The results show that, while most Europeans think the consequences of climate change will be bad, many only feel a moderate responsibility to reduce climate change and think that personal efforts will not be very effective. However, support for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency regulation are high across Europe, with a majority in all countries who want a large amount of electricity to be generated from renewable sources.

A large majority of respondents in each country think that the world's climate is changing, that this is at least partly due to human activity, and that the consequences of climate change will be bad. However, just over a quarter (28%) of respondents across Europe stated that they were very or extremely worried about climate change. Concern was highest in Portugal (51%) and Spain (48%), and lowest in Russia (14%), Poland (15%) and Estonia (15%).

Perhaps unsurprisingly, people indicated more concern over the affordability of energy, with 40% across Europe claiming to be very or extremely worried. Concern about the affordability of energy is particularly widespread in Spain (70%) and Portugal (68%), the two countries that also have the highest levels of concern about climate change. Conversely, fewer than 15% of respondents in Sweden, Iceland, Switzerland, and Norway indicated concern over the cost of energy.



Looking at personal responsibility to reduce climate change on a scale of 0-10 (where 0 represents no responsibility and 10 means a great deal of responsibility), the mean score was only slightly above the scale mid-point of 5. Feelings of personal responsibility to mitigate climate change were highest in France and Switzerland (with mean scores close to 7 on a 0-10 scale), and lowest in Czechia (both with a mean score lower than 4).

The vast majority of respondents in the European Union and European Free Trade Association area indicated support for renewable energy sources. Around three-quarters think that a large or very large amount should be generated from wind and solar power. In contrast, coal and nuclear are highly unpopular sources of electricity generation, with only around 10% of respondents thinking a large or very large amount of electricity should be generated from them.

The results show that the use of public money to subsidise renewable energy is particularly popular, with 76% of respondents favouring this policy. More than half of those surveyed are in favour of a ban on sales of the least energy-efficient household appliances, while only one in five are against this policy. In contrast, only 30% of respondents are in favour of increasing fossil fuel taxes, while 40% are somewhat or strongly against this policy. ◀

## THE IMPACT OF THE ESS

### Academic Impact

Each year, an evaluation of the academic impact of the ESS is produced by Core Scientific Team (CST) member at the University of Ljubljana. In-depth analysis of academic publications listed on Google Scholar and the ESS Bibliography informs this annual report. In order to evaluate the academic impact of our data, this monitoring provides:

- Longitudinal empirical evidence on the scope, geographical and disciplinary patterns of ESS academic usage, theory development and policy references
- Empirical support for informed decision-making by ESS bodies (CST, SAB, and QDTs) regarding questionnaire content (item and module selection and revision), targeting training, communication strategies and similar
- Summary bibliographic reports, a comprehensive list of citations with the option to create customized sub-lists based on various criteria (see Appendix 1) and item usage statistics (see Appendix 2). These documents help demonstrate ESS's academic relevance to European and national funders and users (NCs, GA)
- Bibliographic repository for other work packages, utilized for methodological testing, updating of ESS online bibliography, supporting ESS communication efforts, and creating relevant outreach materials.

The source of annual updates for the new ESS online bibliography, providing bibliographic variables accessible to the general audience and enabling users to browse ESS publications according to various criteria.

The latest monitoring of all published articles revealed that 6,585 publications have included significant analysis of ESS data (2003-22). This comprises any type of academic publication in the English language, including journal articles, books, book chapters, published conference materials, research papers, reports, or theses. These publications can be on any survey methods or substantive topic, but they must incorporate at least one ESS item that is used in primary analysis.

Out of the 6,585 publications, 87.9% (5,790) are substantive, while 12.1% (795) are methodological. Compared to the previous iteration of the report covering 2003-21, a further 619 new publications were identified, with the majority (541) being published in 2022. Of these 541 articles, 387 were published in peer-reviewed journals.

ESS-based analyses were found to be most frequently observed in six scholarly fields: sociology (32.2%); political science (22.5%); economy (13.8%); health and medicine (6.1%); psychology, and methods (both 5.3%).

In terms of research topics most frequently investigated by authors using ESS data, politics remains the most explored subject in the academic literature - with 23.7% of all ESS publications. The most frequently referenced subjects within politics include political parties, political trust, political elites, political culture, political responsiveness, and political efficacy.

In recent years, there has been a notable increase in studies focusing on (right-wing) political populism and the determinants of its support. Other explored topics include immigration (14.2% of all publications); welfare and public policies (10.7%); employment and the labour market (9.3%); and the economy (9%).



Analysis is undertaken to establish the number of publications (co) authored by at least one author affiliated in a country. The leading countries on this measure are the United Kingdom (975); Germany (865); United States (721); The Netherlands (636); and Spain (435).

The report also focuses on which countries are included in the analysis, and detailed information about the most popular questionnaire items. The final report is supplemented with two appendices. The bibliography includes reference information for all 6,585 publications. The item usage report highlights the number of times data from each ESS question has been analysed.

### Media Monitoring

Each year, ESS ERIC HQ monitors all mentions of the ESS in the media and online publications. In each annual year period, around 1,000 articles are published globally. Approximately one third of these are found in international or national media outlets with relatively high audiences. There is an upsurge in mentions monitored in the immediate period following a new data release.

Survey data referenced most commonly in these articles is broadly in line with the academic articles highlighted above. Politics, immigration, wellbeing, climate change and energy and trust data are most commonly cited.

### Policy Impact

Analysis of the use of ESS data and methods in the policy arena was conducted by EFIS Centre in 2023. The research relied on the Overton database - the world's largest searchable index of policy documents, guidelines, think tank publications and working papers. Overton collects data from 188 countries and over a thousand sources worldwide.

The database found 3,246 policy documents from 355 sources in 57 countries that referenced the ESS. Over 100 references were found in five countries (Germany; the United Kingdom; Belgium; the United States; and the Netherlands) and amongst intergovernmental organisations. Over 200 references were found in four organisations: European Union; IZA - Institute of Labor Economics; OECD; and the UK Government. ◀

## POLICY MAKING FROM A CROSS-NATIONAL EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

An understanding of public attitudes is critical to formulating public policy, especially in an era of falling political participation and electoral turnout. The results from the ESS can have a useful impact on pan-European governance and contribute to policy changes in participating countries.

The ESS illuminates social and political attitudes of the resident population and relates these to data about people's behaviour or social circumstances. It employs high scientific standards, many of which had previously been regarded as unattainable in a survey of this nature. It means that ESS data can be used to gather an understanding of the effect of legislative changes on the resident population.

This section includes a number of examples where the ESS has directly affected policy.

“ **The ESS illuminates social and political attitudes of the resident population and relates these to data about people's behaviour or social circumstances.** ”

### Austria

- ESS data was used by the Austrian Ministry for Labour Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASK). Data on welfare is regularly used for research and by policymakers to support decision making. BMASK also funds a study where ESS is used to see possible effects of the economic crisis on welfare attitudes.
- The Chamber of Labour Vienna published a report - Gerechtigkeitscheck: Wie fair findet Österreich die Verteilung von Einkommen und Vermögen - Neue Erkenntnisse aus dem (Justice Check: How fair does Austria find the distribution of income and wealth? - New findings from the European Social Survey). Here, ESS data were of particular relevance in that they not only assess income inequality, but also wealth inequality.

### Bulgaria

- Round 4 (2008/09) data assisted the Bulgarian Parliament in the development of two pieces of national immigration legislation: the Investment Promotion Act and the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria. The Investment Promotion Act ensured the equal treatment of Bulgarian and foreign investors whilst the Law on Foreigners allowed for improved legal rights for visiting foreign nationals.

### Czechia

- ESS data served as a resource for drafting the National Report on Life Quality and Its Sustainability, under the project "System of long-term priorities of sustainable development in government administration" in Czechia. The report is based on an analysis of selected ESS indicators and assesses developments in the priority areas with a link to strategic and specific objectives of the Czech Republic 2030 strategy. The progress report is submitted to the government every three years.

### Estonia

- The Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and Education has implemented ESS methodology. Seminars about the ESS were held and the ESS was used by Ministry-funded initiatives, such as the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) study. Prior to this, immigration data was used in a report by the Estonian Office of the Minister of Population Affairs. The government also used ESS data in supporting the development and funding of social services for at-home-care for adults.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Education has used ESS data since 2008. It contributed in the process of preparing the Ministry's Strategy of Children and Families 2012-20 with data collected contributing to internal policy discussions.

### Finland

- ESS survey design and data were used in evaluating the Universal Basic Income (UBI) trial in Finland, among the largest such trials in the world to date. Despite inconclusive results regarding the impact on employment (the original intent), the sample group scored higher in social trust than those receiving standard unemployment welfare, thus contributing to the international debate over UBI.

### France

- Survey data from rounds about young people appeared in a 2016 report published by the French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Santé).
- France Stratégie - a public think-tank attached to the Prime Minister - has used ESS data in several reports. France Stratégie's report findings have been disseminated through the general media and through public debate, in particular on social inequalities.
- In 2020, the French government agency National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and the Wellbeing Observatory prepared a report on wellbeing in France, using ESS data. This is in the context of ongoing work carried out by France Stratégie (think tank of the French Prime Minister) in the area of personal happiness and wellbeing.

### Germany

- ESS data was used to guide a regional extension of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) in Germany - a tool initially created by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission.
- The ESS was used for eight governmental position papers, studies or drafts between 2017-21. These papers cover a broad range of topics, including variables on immigration, wellbeing, trust in political systems or perceptions of climate change, for instance. Another piece of evidence can be found in the Institute of the German Economy's work, which makes regular use of the ESS. For the Annual Report of the German Expert Council on Integration and Migration, the ESS is consulted for aspects such as voting behaviour of immigrants or political activism and involvement. The Expert Council also used the ESS for its report on Political Participation and Civil Engagement of Immigrants in Germany.



### Hungary

- ESS data was used by the Háttér Society (Hungarian organisation for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Queers and Intersex people) and Institute for Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences. Their analysis resulted in the inclusion of LGBTQI people as a disadvantaged group in the Budapest Equal Opportunity programme 2017-19.
- At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was limited information in Hungary concerning the make-up of the elderly population. The core study team used the ESS to examine the social relationships of people aged 65 and over and warned of the potential negative impacts of quarantine rules. This report was widely reported in the Hungarian press, with many calling for more societal support for people in situations of loneliness and isolation.

### Ireland

- The Healthy and Positive Aging Initiative (HaPAI) has used the ESS as the basis for some of its own survey questions to improve policy and services for Irish citizens as they age. The HaPAI will then be used to form an indicator set that can be deployed by the Irish government to establish clear policy goals in the long-term.

### Latvia

- The Latvian government asked the National Coordinator of ESS in Latvia to carry out an indepth analysis of social and political trust in Latvia. The project - Anatomy of Trust - What European Social Survey Data Tell About Trust in Latvia - was fed into the National Development Plan for 2021-27, which is drawn up by the Cross-Sectional Coordination Center of Latvia, which directly answers to the Prime Minister. The National Development Plan also uses several indicators from the ESS directly to measure components of trust in Latvian society.

## Lithuania

- The 'Lithuanian Action Plan for Citizenship Education 2016-2020' was a multi-institutional endeavour to stimulate young people to become more active in civil society using ESS indicators that allowed for an international benchmark of Lithuania with other European countries.
- The Lithuanian Strategy for Demography, Migration and Integration Policy 2018–2030 references ESS data to support strengthening Lithuanian NGOs and community organisations in order to foster stronger communities. The Lithuanian national team is engaged in communication activities to inform policy makers about the potential of the ESS to inform governance. An event was held in 2019 with council representatives from the Kaunas District Municipality.

## The Nordics

- NordMod 2030 - a pan-Nordic research project - used ESS data on central topics such as trust and satisfaction with public services in the Nordic countries. The project was commissioned by the Cooperation Committee of the Nordic Worker's Movement (SAMAK) and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS).

## Poland

- The Polish ESS national team provided ESS-based training at the National Bank of Poland in 2011.
- The Polish national ESS team provided training sessions to staff at Poland's Central Statistical Office (Główny Urząd Statystyczny) that led to a European programme (ESS Vision 2020) to standardise official statistics agencies.



## Portugal

- The Centre for Judicial Studies (Centro de Estudos Judiciários, CEJ) in Portugal now includes ESS data on the evaluation of justice and trust in judicial institutions in the curriculum for the training of future judges and public prosecutors.
- Structured and repeated contact with media outlets has led to results from the ESS leading to public debate about racism in Portugal. The national team keep journalists informed when new rounds of data are released and prepare attuned, short analyses accompanied with an interpretation and/or explanation. A journalist who covered racism in Portugal collaborated with the national team on presenting the results in an extended article on racist attitudes. This was picked up by several other media outlets and TV programmes

## Slovenia

- ESS data regarding the social wellbeing of citizens, using indicators on life satisfaction and happiness, has been used in reports produced by The Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development in Slovenia. The Institute's director reports directly to the President and their reports offer Slovenian policymakers a unique insight into the comparative position of their country on various indicators, notably around wellbeing.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs asked the ESS national coordination team to collaborate and provide data for the formation of a report - Resolution on Family Policy 2018-28: A Family-Friendly Society - which was adopted in February 2018.

## Sweden

- The ESS module concerning trust in the police and criminal courts fed into a strategic reorganisation of the Swedish police service and national efforts to strengthen local policing.
- The ESS has been used for research on migration and attitudes towards immigrants by researchers at Umeå University in Sweden. The research by Umeå University has been used by the Swedish delegation for migration studies (Delmi), which published the results in a report.

## Switzerland

- The Military Academy uses ESS data for its annual report on safety, wherein light is being shed on attitudes towards Swiss foreign, security and defence policy. In this report, it was found that Swiss citizens feel safe, exhibit high levels of trust in authorities and are in favour of continued economic sovereignty. In a similar vein, the Service for Combating Racism, as part of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, has repeatedly made use of the ESS, while also the Swiss Federal Statistical Office has used the ESS on multiple occasions for numerous publications and analyses.

## United Kingdom

- The Round 5 (2010/11) trust in police and criminal courts module was referenced by the UK's National Audit Office (NAO). Data from the Trust in Justice module additionally appeared in a 2012 Ministry of Justice report, leading to changes in the way Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary monitors the work of senior police officers.
- The UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) Measuring National Wellbeing Programme commenced in 2010. It set out to provide a fuller picture of society by supplementing existing economic, social and environmental measures with the opinions of the population. In support of the programme, the ONS analysed ESS core questionnaire items measuring life satisfaction and happiness, and the ESS Round 3 module on wellbeing.
- ONS measures of subjective wellbeing were also developed following discussions with the New Economics Foundation (NEF) about its Round 3 ESS findings. In addition, the Strategy and Analysis Team at the UK Cabinet Office deployed evidence from the ESS to ensure the concept of wellbeing was understood across all government departments.

- The ESS Round 4 rotating module on Experiences and Expressions of Ageism was developed by the University of Kent and the ESS. The module was complemented by an in-depth programme of work between the University of Kent, charity Age UK and the UK Government Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- The UK DWP commissioned the team to produce reports using ESS data, working in collaboration with a senior researcher at DWP. The ESS held a seminar at the DWP in 2013 on this topic to introduce the DWP and other Government analysts to the ESS dataset and present the ESS findings. The Coordinators of the EU and UK Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity also discussed ESS data at this event, underlining the importance of preparing for an ageing society. ◀

**“The results from the ESS can have a useful impact on pan-European governance and contribute to policy changes in participating countries.”**

# IMPACT STUDY

A report published by Technopolis Group (UK) was published in 2022. Funded by the ESS-SUSTAIN-2 project (Horizon 2020, grant agreement number 871063), the study explored academic, non-academic and teaching impact of ESS data. This study was commissioned by the ESS ERIC and conducted with bibliometric analysis from the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at the University of Leiden. This followed up an initial report published in September 2017 by Technopolis Group (UK).



Both impact studies found high levels of academic, teaching and non-academic impact across Europe. The 2022 report cited impact in four categories:

### Registered users

To access ESS data, users have to complete a short registration form. Analysis of data from this registration form by Technopolis Group (UK) found that, as of June 2021, there had been 182,778 registrations - almost double the figure at the start of the original Impact Study (June 2016). The number of registered users has grown consistently by 14-15% in each of the last five years and, in the year up to June 2021, 74% registered users had downloaded our data. Of the 50,000 non-student registered users who had accessed the data up until 2020, 7,712 had logged in and downloaded data within the calendar year.

### Teaching impact

The report found ESS data to be increasingly used as a teaching tool, across participating countries and beyond and in an increasing number of institutions for both methodological and thematic courses. Technopolis Group (UK) report that the actual number of students using the data is likely higher than user registration form data suggests, as many lecturers download data for their students. In 2016, there were 18 institutions with more than 500 confirmed users (including four with over 1,000). By the start of 2021, this increased to 42 (including 15 institutions with over 1,000 confirmed users).

### Academic impact

Technopolis Group (UK) report that the overall number of academic publications including significant analysis of our data has increased by at least 150% since the first Impact Study. Including various different publication types and non-English language publications, University of Ljubljana data suggests that there are over 7,500 publications in existence (the first Impact Study reported 2,704).

Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) was able to identify 2,448 academic publications listed on Web of Science, which compares to around 1,000 in the previous study. The citation impact of these publications is well above average, being about 70% more highly cited than average, with 21% of all ESS publications belonging to the top 10%. The journals in which work is being published have a citation impact of 40% above the world average.

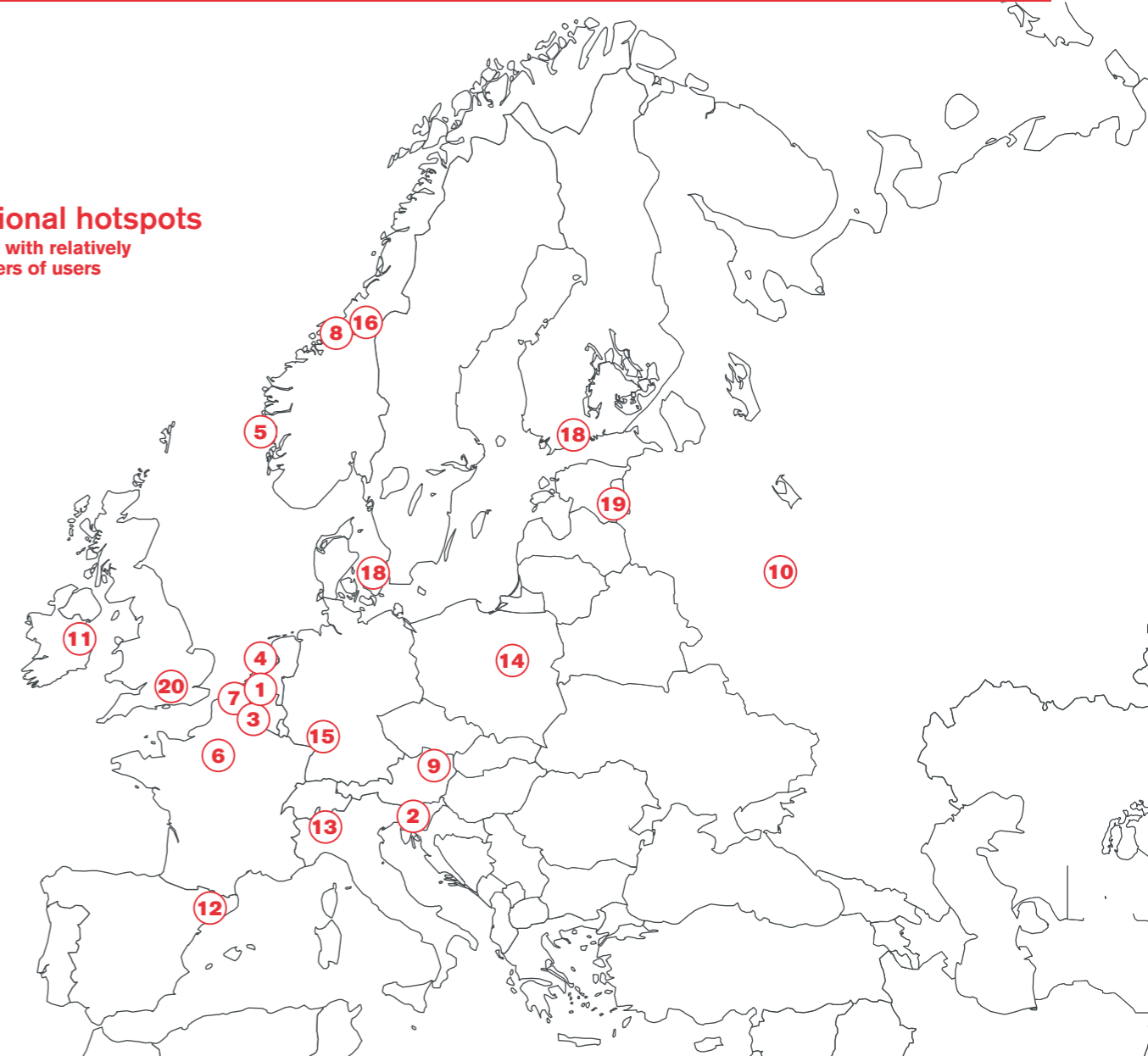
### Non-academic impact

Technopolis Group (UK) found many examples of non-academic impact, of many different types and across different domains, including:

- General intelligence and insight for NGOs or government ministries, agencies or advisory bodies
- Agenda setting by using our data to highlight a particular problem or challenge, triggering various types of policy action
- Influence on public debate or highlighting certain issues to the general public through presentation of our data or findings in the news media
- Monitoring: using our data as indicators to track certain aspects of societal progress, to help assess whether certain policies are achieving the desired outcomes

## Institutional hotspots

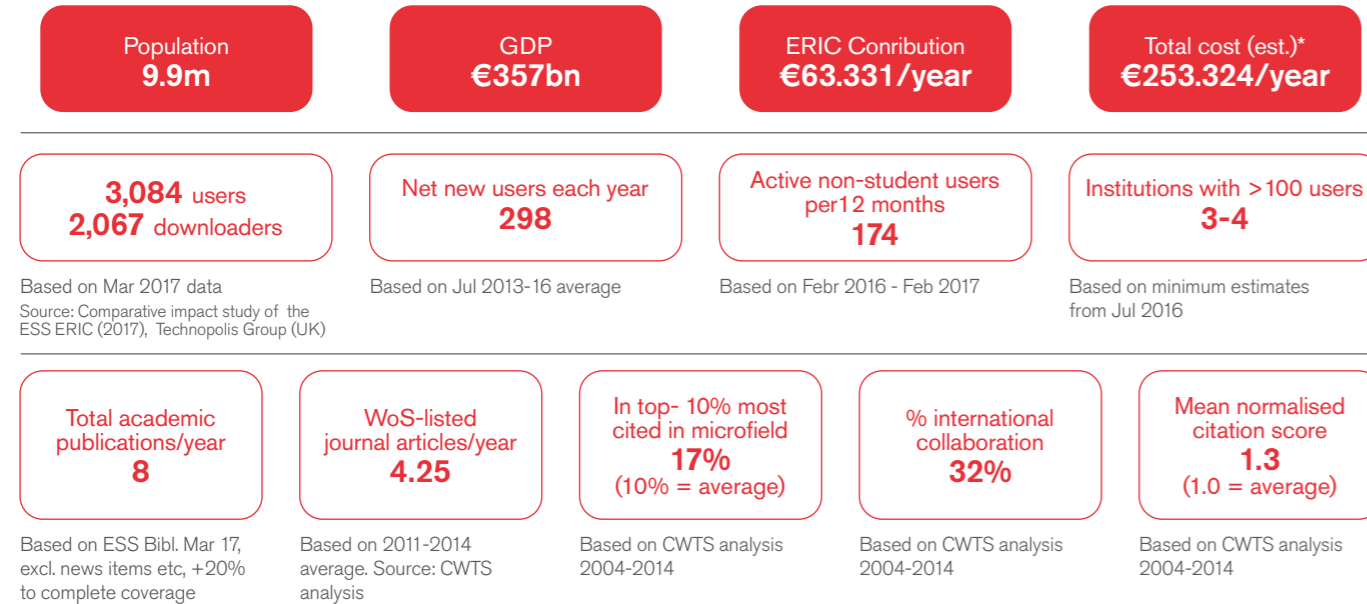
Institutions with relatively high numbers of users



| Rank | Institution             | Country | Count | Rank | Institution                | Country | Count |
|------|-------------------------|---------|-------|------|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1    | Universiteit Antwerpen  | BE      | 2744  | 11   | UCD                        | IE      | 535   |
| 2    | University of Ljubljana | SI      | 1853  | 12   | Uniersitat Pompeu Fabra    | ES      | 531   |
| 3    | KU Leuven               | BE      | 1242  | 13   | Bocconi University         | PL      | 530   |
| 4    | University of Amsterdam | NL      | 1213  | 14   | Warsaw School of Economics | PL      | 525   |
| 5    | University of Bergen    | NO      | 942   | 15   | University of Mannheim     | DE      | 522   |
| 6    | Sciences Po             | FR      | 876   | 16   | HINT                       | NO      | 516   |
| 7    | ULG                     | BE      | 654   | 17   | University of Copenhagen   | DK      | 508   |
| 8    | NTNU                    | NO      | 654   | 18   | University of Helsinki     | FI      | 501   |
| 9    | University of Vienna    | AT      | 644   | 19   | University of Tartu        | EE      | 475   |
| 10   | NRU HSE                 | RU      | 582   | 20   | LSE                        | GB      | 465   |

Prospectus: Impact study (continued)

**FIG. 5 The hypothetical median ESS member/observer country**



**NB:** Upward tendency on most indicators – these figures present and absolute minimum estimate!



## ESS PUBLICATIONS

### ESS Topline Findings

In 2011, the ESS launched a new series of Topline Findings documents, which are concise cross-national summaries of particular topics covered in the questionnaire. These are primarily written by external questionnaire design teams (QDTs) who successfully applied to field a rotating module in the ESS.

| Topline Findings  | ESS Data used   |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Trust in Justice   | Round 5         |
| 2. Welfare Attitudes in Europe                                | Round 4         |
| 3. Economic Crisis, Quality of Work and Social Integration    | Rounds 2 and 5  |
| 4. Europeans' Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy     | Round 6         |
| 5. Europeans' Personal and Social Wellbeing                   | Round 6         |
| 6. Social Inequalities in Health and their Determinants       | Round 7         |
| 7. Attitudes towards Immigration and their Antecedents        | Round 7         |
| 8. The Past, Present and Future of European Welfare Attitudes | Round 8         |
| 9. European Attitudes to Climate Change and Energy            | Round 8         |
| 10. Justice and Fairness in Europe                            | Round 9         |
| 11. The Timing of Life  | Round 9         |
| 12. Digital Social Contacts in Work and Family Life           | Round 10        |
| 13. Understandings and Evaluations of Democracy               | Rounds 6 and 10 |



**“ The European Social Survey is a great project of incredible value. The huge amount of scientific data collected on public attitudes and behaviour, enabling comparisons across European nations and also over time, makes it a very useful tool for effective policy-making, including in reducing social inequalities in health. ”**

**Vytėnis Andriukaitis**  
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

## Findings Booklets

Several Findings Booklets have also been produced and offer a more general overview of the wide scope of topics covered by the ESS. These include short summaries of published research that is based on analysis of ESS data.




| Findings Booklets  | ESS Data used |
|--|---------------|
| Exploring public attitudes, informing public policy (1)          | Rounds 1-3    |
| Exploring public attitudes, informing public policy (2)          | Rounds 1-5    |
| Exploring public attitudes, informing public policy (3)          | Rounds 1-7    |
| Exploring public attitudes, informing public policy (4)          | Rounds 1-9    |
| Measuring and reporting on Europeans' wellbeing                  | Round 6       |
| The Human Values Scale: Findings from the European Social Survey | Rounds 1-9    |

## ESS on wellbeing

A key challenge for policymakers across Europe is ensuring the health and wellbeing of their populations. With this in mind, ESS created a dedicated section of the ESS website to allow academics to publish analysis of the data collected during Round 6 (2012/13) of the survey.

This initiative showcases the scope that ESS data provide for exploring the definition, distribution and drivers of subjective wellbeing across Europe. Academics, policymakers and students are encouraged to explore the section and use the resources for their own research.

All of the reports are available on the ESS website. 



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 [europeansocialsurvey.org](http://europeansocialsurvey.org)



## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ESS

The European Social Survey is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC) that provides cross-national data about public attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

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