

A SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

The research highlighted in this booklet paints a vivid picture of the subjective wellbeing of citizens in Europe and the key drivers thereof. During a period of economic and political challenge it is especially important to identify patterns and trends in wellbeing and to evaluate the usefulness of this concept as a barometer for evaluating society. The ESS provides high quality data to support this illumination of Europeans' wellbeing. Further, the ESS also covers a range of other topics (including democracy, immigration, welfare, energy and the environment, health inequalities and institutional trust) to support academically rigorous analysis of the grand societal challenges facing Europe in the 21st Century.

It is therefore reassuring that over 80,000 people from across the world have chosen to register at the ESS website to access its detailed data or protocols. Equally significant is the growing number of publications, already numbering over 3,000, in the form of articles, books and other manuscripts that use ESS data. In addition to this output, the ESS continues to exert its influence on cross-national methodology by championing the most rigorous standards in survey design and data collection.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of hundreds of researchers right across the European Research Area (ERA). Within the ESS itself, the Core Scientific Team (CST) has driven the project academically, supported by excellent advice from both its Scientific Advisory and Methods Advisory Boards. Meanwhile a series of National Coordination teams has excelled at the task of implementing the demanding ESS specification within their countries.



Our biggest debt, however, is to the over 300,000 respondents across Europe who have devoted around an hour of their time to share their views with trained interviewers. Continued public participation in social surveys is essential in order to produce data that can lead to better policy – and a better Europe. €

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