

**European Social Survey  
European Research Infrastructure Consortium  
(ESS ERIC)**

**Research Ethics Board: Call for members and chair**

**October 2024**

The European Social Survey European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC) is looking to appoint five external members to join its newly established Research Ethics Board (REB), one of whom will be its chair. The committee will replace the informal Research Ethics Committee that has been active in recent years and is now a formal part of the ESS ERIC governance structure.

The REB is responsible for providing the ERIC with advice on ethical issues. This board shall review ethics applications for all ESS activities initiated by the Director and the Core Scientific Team which require the participation of human subjects. The decision of the board shall be binding on all organs of the ESS ERIC, including the Director.

The REB will approve the survey specification used for each round, as well as associated activities. This includes questionnaire pre-testing, as well as any new data collection projects, such as the [CROss-National Online Survey \(CRONOS\) panel](#), currently part of the Horizon Europe Infra4NextGen project. Other projects may include experiments or usability testing projects in preparation of the upcoming mode switch from face-to-face interviews to self-completion methods. Outside of formal applications for ethical approval, the ESS Director may wish to consult the Board for advice on ethical matters.

It is anticipated that a maximum of 10-15 applications/amendments for ethical approval will be submitted to the REB during each two-year survey life cycle. The REB meets in person once a year (travel and subsistence costs are reimbursed), and otherwise communicates via email and virtual meetings.

Membership of the Committee will be comprised of one member of the ESS Methods Advisory Board, one member of the ESS Scientific Advisory Board, one National Coordinator, the ESS Data Protection Officer (ex-officio) and five successful external applicants.

Members will serve for a four year term (renewable) starting from January 2025.

The appointments will be made on the basis of relevant experience and will take into account the need to maintain an overall balance across the Research Ethics Committee in terms of gender and geographic representation.

To apply, please submit a short CV and covering letter (maximum one sides of A4) outlining your suitability for the post, **indicating if you are willing to serve as an ordinary member or also as Chair.**



Your application should include information on areas of research expertise, any previous experience of serving on ethics boards and any relevant training or qualifications in research ethics.

Applications should be submitted via [email](#) by 4 October. Please mark the email “ESS ERIC REC Application”. For a formal discussion of the role, please contact [Ruxandra Comanaru](#).

Committee members do not receive reimbursement for contributing to the committee however travel and accommodation costs are met for attending meetings.