



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

**Annual Activity Report
01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023**

European Social Survey ERIC Annual Activity Report 2022-2023¹

The objectives of the European Social Survey 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 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.

(The objectives of the ESS ERIC as set out in its Scientific and Technical Description were re-formulated at a strategic ESS workshop in July 2021, agreed by the ESS ERIC Scientific Advisory Board and endorsed by the GA at the 20th meeting of the GA in October 2021.)

¹ Council Regulation No 723/2009 provides that: An ERIC shall produce an annual activity report, containing in particular the scientific, operational and financial aspects of its activities. It shall be approved by the assembly of members and transmitted to the Commission and relevant public authorities within six months from the end of the corresponding financial years. This report shall be made publicly available (Article 17 Reporting and Control).

This report was approved by the ESS ERIC General Assembly at its meeting on 17 November 2023.

Foreword

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

The activity report that follows is published in a year that marks 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. In 2013, 14 countries founded the ESS ERIC. Today, ESS has the highest membership of any ERIC, 28 members and 1 observer.

The anniversary is worth a celebration. The total number of ESS data users registered at May 2023 is 218,682 with users from a wide scope of society, including academia, government, and non-governmental organisations, think tanks, journalists, students and private individuals. Since its start in 2003, there are more than 6,585 academic publications based on the ESS data.

The main objective of the ESS ERIC is 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 structures, public opinion and attitudes. This is achieved through fielding a face-to-face general population survey undertaken second year across the participating countries. The reported period covers the start of Round 11 fieldwork, the finalisation of archiving activities from Round 10, as well as the start of preparations for Round 12 of ESS.

The report documents an impressive range of activities involved in and coordinated through the process, such as question wording, translation, sampling, survey mode and data documentation. In 2023 ESS participated in an ESFRI Landmark Monitoring exercise and achieved a most successful 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. A current example: When the coronavirus made face-to-face data collection difficult to be implemented in all countries during Round 10, special dispensation was given for self-completion modes to be implemented in this specific round. In the aftermath, the ESS has decided to change the mode of data collection, away from face-to-face interviewing to self-completion. The change is scheduled to take place in 2027 and has resulted in several preparatory actions which have been carried out in the reported period. 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 ESS ERIC.

Message from ESS ERIC Director

Professor Rory Fitzgerald, ESS ERIC HQ, City, University of London

As I write this Foreword in early December 2023, the European Social Survey has just celebrated 10 years since the European Commission established the ESS as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC). Since that time ESS has seen its national membership rise from 14 to 28, meaning ESS has the largest number of national members of any ERIC. High membership allows the infrastructure to deliver high quality comparative data from countries across the European Research Area and provides a stable budget to support the biennial survey waves. In addition, a new Horizon Europe grant Infra4NextGen will allow ESS to continue to provide data from its cross-national web panel CRONOS, currently limited to 11 countries but with aspirations to become an integral part of the infrastructure. The CRONOS panel offers significant opportunities for flexibility and innovation in the future.

There are currently many global challenges which ESS data can assist in understanding, including climate change, health inequalities, digitalisation, democracy, and many others. At the same time ESS data in its Round 11 is being collected under conditions of conflict in Israel and Ukraine, providing crucial data at these difficult times. Despite these challenges, ESS will ensure it produces high quality data allowing our data users to deliver academically rigorous analysis that has impact both within and beyond academia.

The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the fragility of face-to-face data collection, which in any event was increasingly under strain due to rising costs for lower returns. Our experimentation with a self-completion alternative (web and paper) during the pandemic has laid the foundations for switching fully to this mode in 2027. Meanwhile the 2025 round will mix face-to-face and self-completion to allow the impact of the data collection change to be better understood. This change marks a significant transformation of the ESS which presents opportunities and risks. All ESS stakeholders are therefore focused on how best to ensure this transition is as successful as possible in the year ahead. There will inevitably be some disruption, but our policy of transparency will ensure our data users are fully informed.

ESS ERIC is truly a distributed consortium with our funders, advisory boards, core scientific team, and national coordinators all playing a crucial role in delivering on the aims of the infrastructure. As ever, I thank all these stakeholders and of course our survey respondents who give up their time to answer our questions. In July 2024 we will meet with ESS data users at our next international conference in Portugal to share the results from the survey in a rigorous academic context, mindful too of the potential for impact beyond academia. I look forward to that event and the possibility to look back over 20 years of ESS data collection and to reflect on the services we have provided to social scientists from Europe and beyond.

Overview

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

The fifth ESS ERIC Work Programme covers the period from 01 June 2021 to 31 May 2023. This Annual Activity Report covers the second part of this biennial period i.e., 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023.

The ESS infrastructure continued to deliver high quality data to the scientific community in this period, further increased its membership and continued to facilitate both academic and non-academic impact based on its data. In addition, ESS continued to plan a major change in how its data will be collected moving from face to face data collection to self-completion. That change is planned for 2027 and will mark one of the biggest transitions in the history of the ESS.

Key activities in this period included the ESS Round 10 data releases in June 2022, December 2022 and May 2023. These releases had been delayed due to the impact of the covid pandemic but all ESS Round 10 data have now been delivered to ESS users. ESS Round 11 preparations were undertaken and implementation of fieldwork in some countries took place in this period. Some preparatory planning for Round 12 was also initiated.

The General Assembly approved the budget and associated Work Programme for 2023 to 2025 at its meeting in Brussels in March 2023 and preparations for its

commencement took place in the latter part of the period.

Academic use of the survey data and non-academic interest in the survey findings and materials continued to increase over the course of this period. ESS ERIC surpassed 200,000 registered data users of its data since it started providing data in 2003, reaching just over 218,500 registrations by 31 May 2023.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic continued to reverberate in the period albeit with considerably reduced intensity. Responses to the pandemic included Round 10 fieldwork rescheduling, as well as the use of the new methods and tools for collecting data in response to the public health restrictions on face to face interactions. The decision to change the mode of data collection, scheduled for 2027, away from face to face interviewing to self-completion, has resulted in a suite of planning actions that were introduced in this period, some of which were prompted by the recommendations of the ESS Strategic Review Board.

ESS ERIC was selected for inclusion in the first round of European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures/ESFRI monitoring of its Roadmap Landmark research infrastructures. It completed this evaluation and was positively assessed.

Membership and participation:

Membership increased in this period from 27 to 28 Members. Montenegro was admitted as a Member in March 2023. ESS ERIC continues to have the highest number of Member countries of any ERIC.

Participation in ESS ERIC at 31 May 2022 reached 32 including 28 Members, 1 Observer (O) and 3 Guest (G) countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece (G) Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo (G), Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (O), Ukraine (G) and the UK (Host Country).

Meetings: The General Assembly met in November 2022, January 2023 and March 2023. Its Committees, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), the Methods Advisory Board (MAB), the Research Ethics Board (REB), Finance Committee (FINCOM) met over the course of the year. The Funding, Governance and Strategy Working Group (FGSWG) was formally established as a standing committee of the GA.

The ESS ERIC Director's Committees – the Core Scientific Team (CST) and the National Coordinators' (NC) Forum met as planned. The CST met in June 2022, September 2022 and February 2023. The NC Forum met in November 2022 (virtual) and April 2023 (in Prague).

ESS Survey Coordination: The planning for and implementation of fieldwork for ESS Round 11 was underway in 2022-2023. Towards the end of 2022, preparations for ESS Round 12 commenced and in particular questionnaire design and testing.

ESS ERIC Programme of Research: An ongoing programme of research seeks to ensure that the ESS ERIC is conducted to the highest quality standards and is equipped to face the challenges of the future. The research programme includes research on web and paper self-completion survey administration of cross-national surveys as well as ongoing analyses oriented to the improvement of survey quality (from sampling to interviewer effects). This programme is also supported via EU H2020 projects.

ESS ERIC Deliverables:

Deliverables as part of the Work Programme 2021-2023 were monitored, with outstanding deliverables rescheduled as required. Delays to deliverables in this Work Programme were a consequence of the rescheduling of some actions, occasioned by the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 in different countries.

ESS ERIC Dissemination: ESS ERIC continued its programme of dissemination. The number of unique visitors to the ESS website and Data Portal rose slightly. At 31 May 2023, there were 218,682 registered ESS data users. Annual evaluation of the academic impact of the ESS found that the number of English language publications with significant analysis of ESS data reached a total of 6,585 (2003-22).

ESS ERIC and ESFRI: ESS ERIC is an ESFRI Landmark Research Infrastructure on the ESFRI Roadmap 2021. The ESS ERIC successfully participated in an ESFR Landmark monitoring exercise in 2023.

ESS ERIC and EU H2020: ESS ERIC continued to coordinate the 'Securing the Sustainability of the ESS ERIC, SUSTAIN 2', project that commenced in January 2020. It participated as a partner in two other H2020 projects: the PAUL Project, led by ICOS ERIC and the EOSC Futures project.

ESS ERIC and HEU: ESS ERIC submitted a successful proposal as a coordinator for INFRA NextGen EU funding. It will also participate as a partner in the funded ERIC Forum 2 project. Both will commence in the next biennial period.

ESS ERIC Global Links: ESS ERIC continued to develop links with global partners.

ESS ERIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Korea (2021-2025) and discussed a MoU with the General Social Survey in the USA.

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1. Introduction

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

The European Social Survey ERIC (ESS ERIC) is a pan-European research infrastructure.

Its objectives, agreed by its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), 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 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.

The European Social Survey seeks to ensure its results are relevant to academic researchers and teachers, policy makers, civil society and the general public. The ESS is fielded every two years and 36 countries have participated in at least one round since 2002. All EU Member States, apart from Malta, have participated in the ESS at least once, as have eleven countries from outside the EU (Albania,

Kosovo, Iceland, Israel, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom).

The Decision establishing the European Social Survey as European Social Survey ERIC ('ESS ERIC'), was published in the Official Journal of the European Union and took effect on 2 December 2013. The European Social Survey ERIC is an independent legal entity (ESS ERIC), 'owned' by its assembly of Members, the ESS ERIC General Assembly.

In the tenth year of ESS ERIC operations (2022-2023) 32 countries participated in its activities. 28 countries were Members of ESS ERIC; 1 held the status of Observer. A further three countries were granted the status of ESS ERIC 'Guest country'. The 'Guest country' status was established by agreement of the General Assembly to enable countries to participate in a round of the ESS without playing a formal part in the governance of the ESS ERIC but contributing financially as though they were a member.

Members: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK (Host Country)

Observer: Switzerland

Guests: Kosovo, Greece, Ukraine (Georgia withdrew from the ESS R11)

Each participating country assigns a named National Representative to the ESS ERIC General Assembly. The National Representatives of Observers and Guest countries do not have voting rights. The listing of National Representatives at 31 May 2023 is presented in Annex 1.

The Committees of the ESS ERIC General Assembly include:

- the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)
- the Methods Advisory Board (MAB) and the Research Ethics Board (REB)
- the Financial Committee (FINCOM)
- the Funding, Governance and Strategy Working Group (FGWG)

The ESS ERIC Director, Professor Rory Fitzgerald, is the Chief Scientific Officer, Chief Executive Officer and legal representative of the ESS ERIC. He is located at the ESS HQ which is housed at City, University of London.

The Core Scientific Team (CST) Institutions include GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany), SCP - The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (The Netherlands), University Pompeu Fabra (Spain), Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Norway), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and the University of Essex (UK).

There are two Deputy Directors of the ESS ERIC; one at ESS ERIC HQ and a second Deputy Director, External:

- Deputy Director: Dr Eric Harrison, ESS ERIC Headquarters
- Deputy Director External: Dr Angelika Scheuer, GESIS

Working collaboratively, the ESS ERIC HQ and the CST Institutions develop and, further to General Assembly approval, implement each of the biennial ESS ERIC Work Programmes.

The ESS ERIC Director's Committee, the National Coordinators' Forum, was periodically convened, allowing National Coordinators from each of the ESS participating countries to share learning and best practice.

The members of the GA and Director's Committees are listed in Annex 2 and 3.

This Annual Activity Report covers the second period of ESS ERIC operations under Work Programme 2021-2023 (1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023).

2. Scientific Activities

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

The aim of the ESS ERIC is to chart social change and stability in social structure, conditions and attitudes in Europe and to interpret how Europe's social, political and moral fabric is changing. This is achieved through the fielding of a functionally equivalent face-to-face general population survey across 30+ plus European countries every two years.

The primary focus of the ESS ERIC Work Programme 2021-2023 is on preparation and delivery of Round 11 of the European Social Survey, for which fieldwork commenced from the Spring of 2023. The second year of this biennial work programme, 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023, therefore covers the start of Round 11 fieldwork, as well as final archiving activities from Round 10. In addition, the period covered the start of preparations for Round 12 of ESS, including selection of the Round 12 rotating modules and the start of questionnaire development for Round 12.

This period also covered ongoing development work towards ESS's switch to a self-completion approach.

The switch to a self-completion approach is planned to take place at Round 13 (2027) but substantial development and preparatory work is required in advance of this point.

Figure 1 (page 12-13) provides a diagrammatic overview of the entire survey process for Round 11. Dates are given for activities as they pertain to ESS Round 11.

There are three key areas of the survey life cycle that are coordinated by ESS ERIC in each survey round:

- Questionnaire design and translation (see Fig 2 and Fig 3)
- Sampling and fieldwork (see Fig 4)
- Data curation and preparation (see Fig 5)

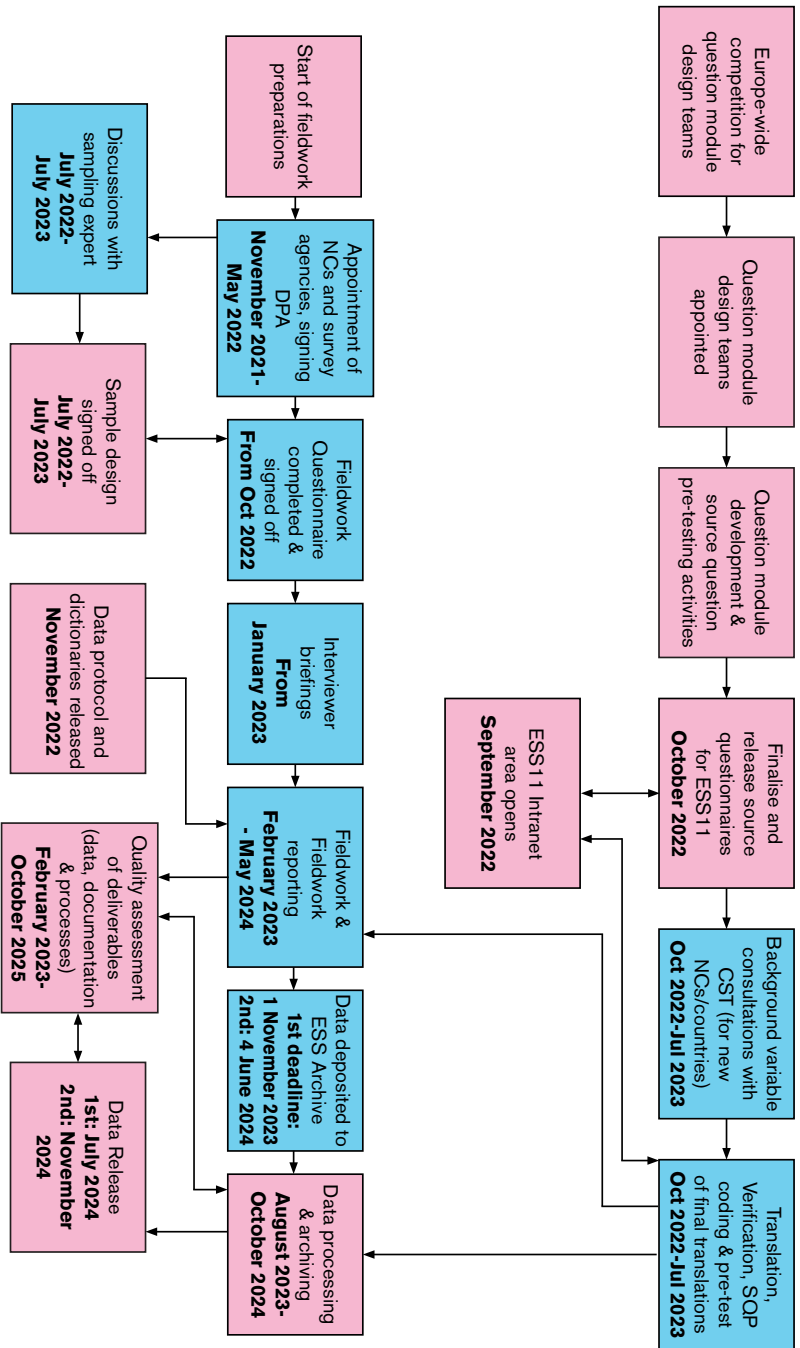
The activities undertaken in the June 2022 to May 2023 period in relation to each of these categories of activity are described below.

At all stages of the survey life cycle, the CST work closely with National Coordinators (NCs) to ensure that the way the survey is implemented in each country adheres as closely as possible to the ESS Specification. A list of the activities for Round 11 involving NCs is shown in Table 2.1.

The ESS ERIC Intranet facility for NCs, integrated within the myESS portal, contains all standards, specifications and guidance documents required for ESS preparations. A list of guidance documents prepared and released for Round 11 is included in Table 2.2.

The period between June 2022 and May 2023 saw three meetings of the CST and two meetings of the NC Forum (which NCs from all participating countries are invited to attend). The CST met in June 2022 in person, in Antwerp), October 2022 (in person, in London) and February 2023 (virtually). The NC Forum met in October 2022 (virtually) and April 2023 (in person, in Prague).

Figure 1. ESS life cycle



Questionnaire design and translation

The Round 11 source questionnaire was issued to ESS national teams on 3 October 2022. This included two rotating modules: Social inequalities in health and their determinants, and Gender in contemporary Europe: rethinking equality and the backlash.

The questionnaire was issued following completion of the final stage of pre-testing in summer 2022, a face-to-face pilot carried out in Great Britain (GB) and Austria, and subsequent analysis. A draft version of the source questionnaire was also sent to ESS national teams to allow them to provide country-level comments. A small number of changes were agreed in response to this feedback. Following issuing of the source questionnaire, four alerts were subsequently issued to reflect minor changes.

A central computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) program is being used for 15 ESS countries at Round 11, as part of an integrated survey tool suite produced by Centerdata. Between June 2022 and May 2023, work was carried out to prepare the tool suite for fieldwork, including making updates to the CAPI program to reflect the questionnaire alerts.

The period between June 2022 and May 2023 also included the start of questionnaire development for ESS Round 12. In November 2022, the ESS ERIC Scientific Advisory Board selected the two rotating modules for ESS Round 12 from a final shortlist of five proposals. The two rotating modules selected for Round 12 are:

- Personal and social wellbeing (repeat of Round 6 module)
- Attitudes to immigrants and refugees (repeat of Round 7 module)

Further details of the two modules are provided below.

Questionnaire design experts from ESS HQ together with experts in survey translation (GESIS) and question measurement (UPF) worked closely with the two Question Design Teams to define the concepts to be measured and design questionnaire items for early pre-testing. Discussions on which items to repeat from the earlier modules were also held. The rotating modules were discussed with NCs at the NC Forum in April 2023 to ensure full consideration was given to how the questions would work cross-nationally.

Preparations for the first stage of questionnaire pre-testing, carried out using an online access panel, were carried out in April-May 2023, with fieldwork due to take place in July 2023. This stage will involve an initial test of the proposed questions for the rotating modules in three countries: UK, Hungary and Portugal. Further stages of pre-testing are planned for late 2023 and early 2024, including cognitive interviewing and additional quantitative testing.

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Figure 2. Source Questionnaire Development and Pre-testing

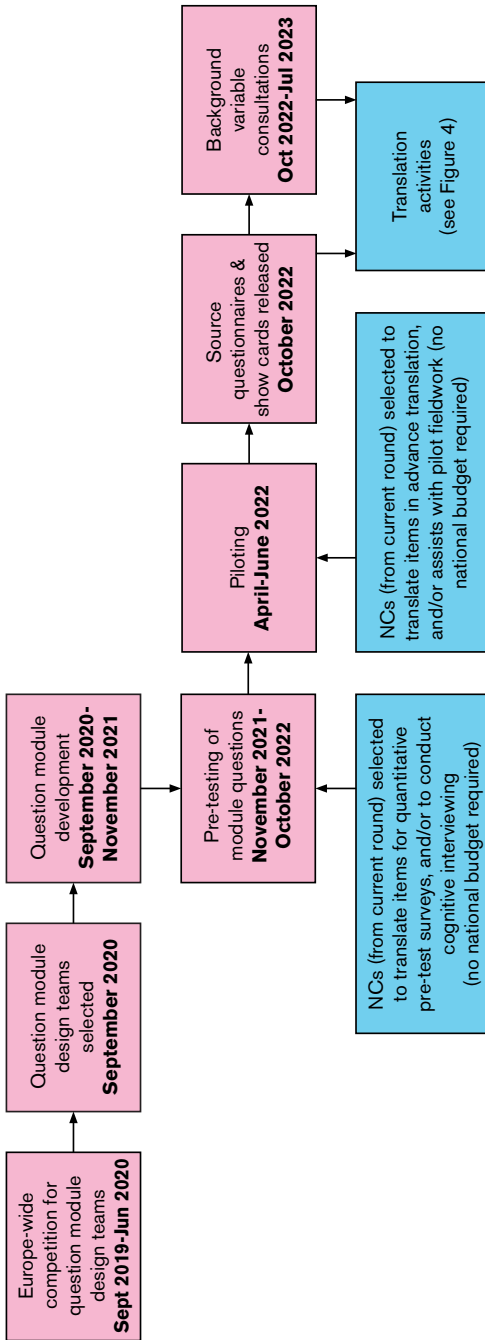
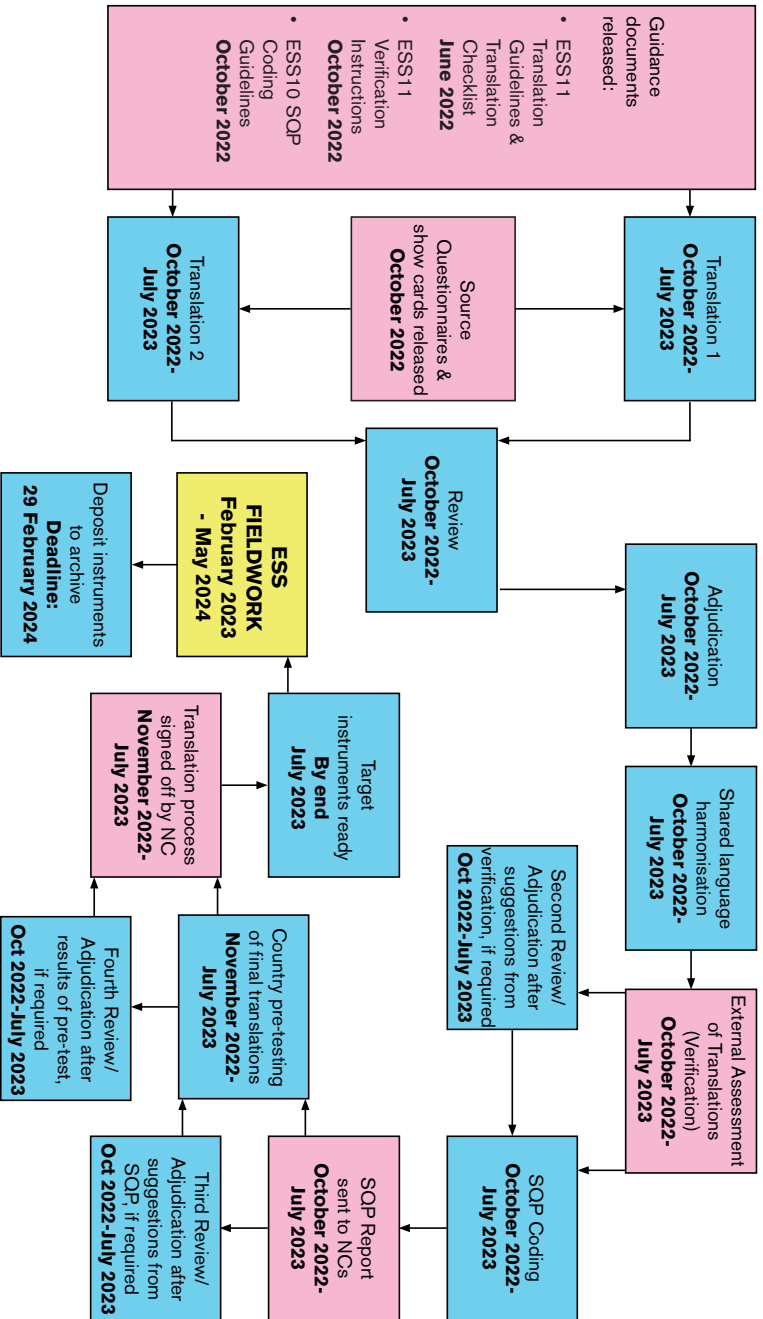


Figure 3. Producing Country Questionnaires: Translation, External Assessment, Harmonisation of formal characteristics of the questions and Pre-testing



To ensure that ESS continues to be world leading in standards for cross-national questionnaire design, UPF continued their programme of work on question quality. This includes three analyses: one on the immigration items and two comparing data for in-person and video interviews (following inclusion of video interviewing at Round 10, for the first time on ESS). UPF also carried out analysis and reporting on a questionnaire experiment to inform the Round 11 Gender module.

The full cycle of questionnaire development and testing for Round 11 is shown in Figure 2.

Questionnaire consultations

A number of questionnaire consultations, overseen by ESS HQ and Sikt, were carried out during this period to agree with NCs country-specific showcards for questionnaire items on religion, education, income, ancestry and partnership status. For Round 11, an additional consultation was carried out on alcohol consumption questions in the Health module, to develop country-specific lists and guidance.

Translations

Once the source questionnaire is issued, countries undertake translation activities following the TRAPD process (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pre-testing and Documentation) to ensure the functional equivalence of the questionnaires fielded in each country (see Figure 4). The translation process is overseen by GESIS.

The central survey tool suite being used for Round 11 includes a translation management tool (TranslationCTRL - TC). The TC provides an interactive online platform which the multiple actors involved in the ESS translation process can use to keep track of and contribute to the final translation process. The Round 11 TC is being used by 15 countries that are using the full survey tool suite. Several other countries are using the TC but not the other tools included in the tool suite.

During the period from June 2022 to May 2023, most ESS countries completed their translations for Round 10. This also included a translation quality checking phase, administered by UPF.

The Round 10 translation process is shown in more detail in Figure 4.

Sampling and Fieldwork

Sampling: Sampling activities for ESS are overseen by a Sampling and Weighting Expert Panel (SWEP), led by the University of Essex. Each country participating in Round 11 has been assigned a dedicated sampling expert to assist them in ensuring their sample design, which must be approved by the SWEP before the start of fieldwork, is in line with the ESS Specification (see Figure 3). During the period between June 2022 and May 2023, the SWEP experts worked closely with the participating national teams for Round 11 to advise on, review and approve their sampling designs.

Other key activities for the SWEP in this period included preparation of design and post-stratification weights for the three Round 10 data releases.

Fieldwork: The June 2022 to May 2023 period included preparations for and commencement of Round 11 fieldwork.

During the second half of 2023, a number of source fieldwork documents were issued to national teams, including an advance letter, respondent information leaflet, interviewing instructions, briefing slides, a contact form, and guidelines on fieldwork monitoring.

The CST works closely with NCs in the planning and conduct of fieldwork. This work is led by an ESS Fieldwork Team (FWT) which comprises members from across the CST institutions. Each participating country is assigned a member of the FWT to act as a 'country contact' who can assist them with fieldwork preparations and monitoring. The country contact is responsible for reviewing a fieldwork questionnaire and fieldwork projections provided by ESS national teams. These documents were provided and reviewed for most countries during the June 2022 to May 2023 period.

All countries are required to sign a Data Processing Agreement prior to the start of Round 11 fieldwork, in line with GDPR requirements. ESS HQ and the ESS ERIC Data Protection Officer advised countries on data protection requirements before and during fieldwork.

The Round 11 fieldwork period runs from February 2023 to December 2023 (but has been revised to May 2024 due to dwindling capacity for face to face fieldwork). Countries have the flexibility to start at any time during this period. However, they were required to complete their Round 11 fieldwork by the end of 2023 (now scheduled for May 2024). The CST has encouraged as many countries as possible to start fieldwork early in this period. This reflects lengthening fieldwork periods in recent ESS rounds and to reduce the risk of countries needing to extend fieldwork into 2024.

By the end of May 2023, eight countries had started their Round 11 fieldwork (Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland). The remaining countries planned to start fieldwork between June and October 2023. It is expected that in total over 30 countries will undertake Round 11 fieldwork.

The ESS Fieldwork Team, through assigned country contacts, is responsible for monitoring fieldwork once it commences in countries and liaising closely with national teams throughout the fieldwork period. For Round 11, fieldwork was monitored using the Fieldwork Management System (FMS) developed for ESS as part of the SERISS project and first used at Round 9. Countries using the integrated tool suite developed by Centerdata used an FMS app for daily fieldwork monitoring. Other countries uploaded their fieldwork progress to an FMS upload portal on a weekly basis during the fieldwork period.

A Field Directors' meeting was held in The Hague in November 2022. This provided an opportunity for the CST to meet directly with Field Directors in participating countries to discuss their preparations for ESS Round 11 alongside ESS's planned transition to a self-completion approach for data collection.

Data Preparation, Processing and Archiving

Curation and archiving constitute distinct areas of activity which are ongoing over the survey biennial period. The key task in this period was the preparation and release of data files from ESS Round 10. There were three data releases: a first release in June 2022 (including 10 countries), a second release in December 2022 (including 15 countries), and a third release in May 2023 (including 6 countries). A total of 31 countries were included across all Round 10 data releases.

This period also covered preparations for Round 11, including publication of the data protocol in December 2022.

Figure 5 presents an overview of data preparation, processing and archiving activities for Round 11.

Self-completion activities

The June 2022 to May 2023 period also included ongoing work in preparations for ESS's switch to a self-completion data collection approach. It is planned that the first fully self-completion round will be Round 13, to be carried out in 2027.

Activities carried out during the June 2022 to May 2023 period have included the following:

- Appointment of external special advisors to deliver a range of analytical and developmental tasks relating to the mode switch. This has covered work on mode effects/measurement differences, response scales, an accessibility and usability review of the questionnaire and respondent documents, and a review on the potential use of fieldworkers for a non-response phase as part of the self-completion approach.
- Development of a self-completion work package for the ESS ERIC 2023-25 work programme, to devote specific resources towards tasks associated with the mode switch.
- Early analysis of ESS self-completion data sets, from Round 10 and experimental studies.
- Ongoing consultation with ESS national teams to help them prepare for the mode switch.
- Development of a centralised and integrated self-completion data collection platform by Centerdata.
- Preparatory work towards self-completion feasibility testing in a small number of countries alongside their ESS Round 11 fieldwork.

Figure 4. Sampling and Fieldwork

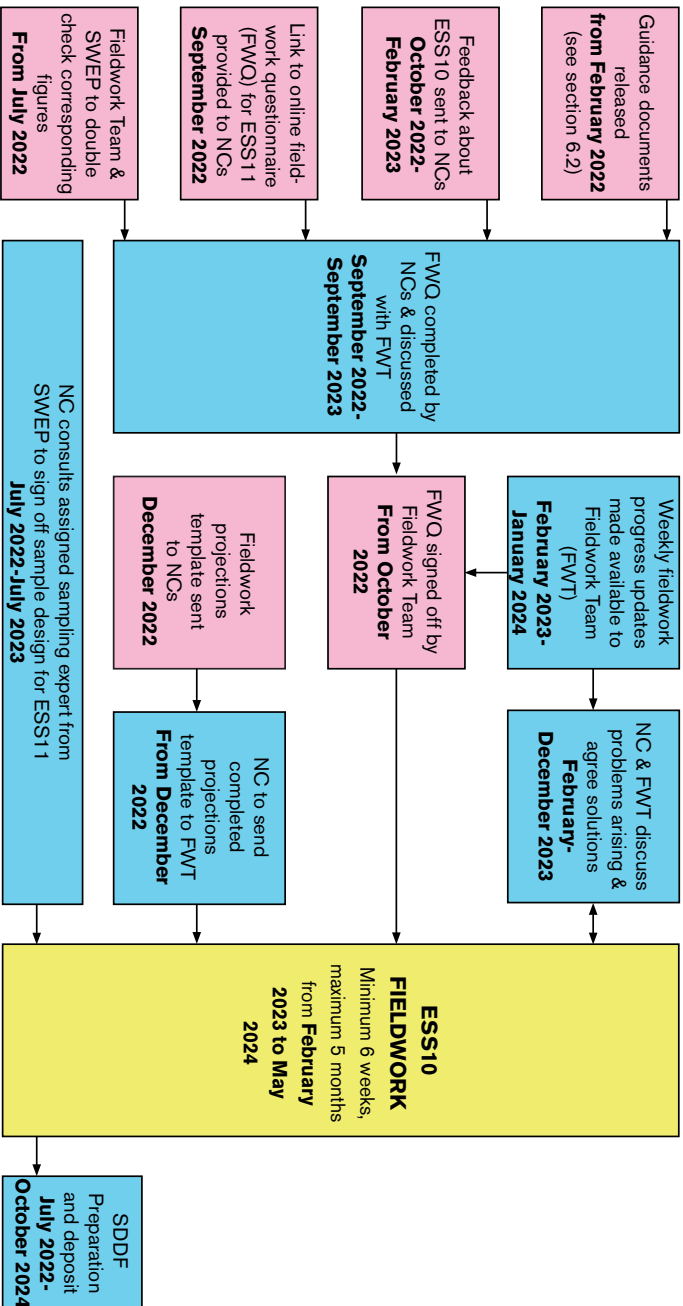


Figure 5. Data Preparation, Processing and Archiving

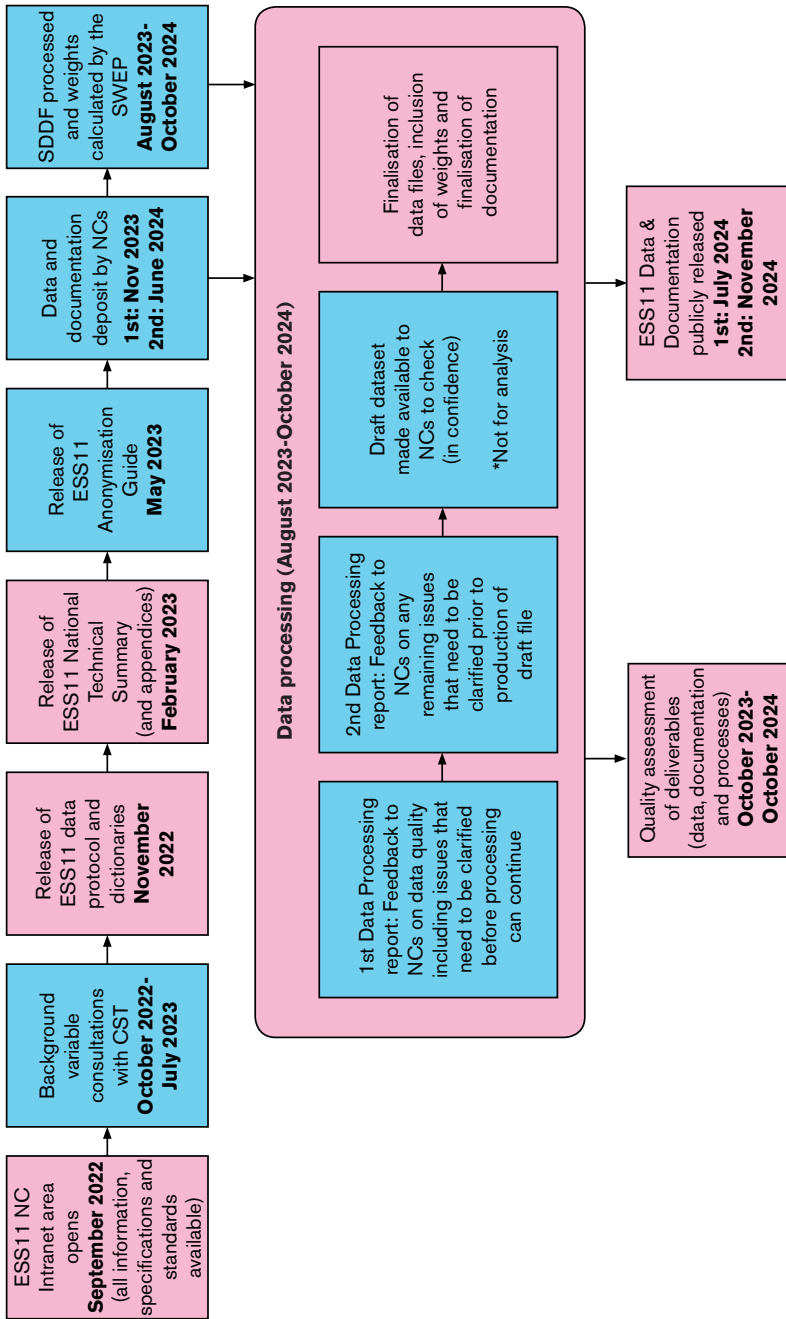


Table 2.1. ESS Round 11 Project Timetable

Month/Date	Action
Nov 2021	ESS ERIC Round 11 Specification issued to General Assembly (Members, Observers and Guests), NCs and Survey Agencies
June 2021 to Jan 2022	ESS Round 11 pre-testing of questions for items from rotating modules in the main questionnaire – including quantitative testing (organised by ESS ERIC HQ) and cognitive interviewing (in a small number of selected countries)
Nov 2021 to May 2022	Appointment of Round 11 National Coordinators (NCs)
Nov 2021 to Sept 2023	Appointment of survey agencies for Round 11
Feb 2022 to Sept 2023	Signing Data Processing Agreements including Data Management Plans
April to June 2022	Advance Translation (a small number of selected countries) (rotating modules), Pilot Fieldwork (2 countries) (rotating modules)
July 2022 to Sept 2023	Sample design plans discussed between NCs and assigned sample panel member & signed off by the Sampling and Weighting Expert Panel (SWEP)
2 Sept 2022	Penultimate draft main questionnaire sent to NCs for comments; NCs asked to highlight possible translation problems
Sept 2022	ESS Round 11 NC Intranet area and Fieldwork Questionnaire (FWQ) available in myESS11
3 Oct 2022	ESS Round 11 Source Questionnaires released to the NCs
From Oct 2022	FWQ completed by NCs and signed off by ESS Fieldwork Team

Month/Date	Action
Oct 2022 to July 2023	Question adaptation and consultations with CST
	Translation, Team review and adjudication, External assessment (Verification), Harmonisation of formal characteristics of the questions using SQP coding, and national pre-tests
Dec 2022	ESS Round 11 Data Protocol and dictionaries distributed
From Dec 2022	Fieldwork projections sent to the Fieldwork Team
From Jan 2023	Interviewer Briefings
June 2023	National Technical Summary (NTS) made available
	ESS Round 11 Fieldwork starts
Feb 2023 to Dec 2023	Monitor fieldwork: Make weekly fieldwork progress information available to the Fieldwork Team
June 2023 to Oct 2024	Data processing and archiving; Preparation of sample design data file (SDDF)
Nov 2023	Data delivery to the ESS Archive (1st release countries)
May 2024	ESS Round 11 face-to-face fieldwork ends
June 2024	Data delivery to the ESS Archive (2nd release countries)
July 2024	1st data release expected
Nov 2024	2nd data release expected

Table 2.2. Key guidance documents released for Round 11

Document name	Round 11 availability date
Data Processing Agreement	February 2022
Respondent Information Sheet	October 2022
Sampling Guidelines	June 2022
Translation Guidelines	June 2022
Translation Quality Checklist	June 2022
Source Questionnaire and showcards	October 2022
Fieldwork Questionnaire (FWQ) available for national teams	September 2022
Instructions for SQP assessment	September 2022
(Translation and) Verification Follow-up Form (T)VFF	September 2022
Verification Instructions	September 2022
Contact form templates	September 2022
Guidelines on fieldwork monitoring	December 2022
NC Manual (including Interviewer Briefings)	December 2022
ESS Data Protocol and dictionaries	December 2022
Fieldwork Projections Template	December 2022
Tools for monitoring interviewer behaviour at ESS R11	April 2023
National Technical Summary & appendices	June 2023
Anonymisation Guide	June 2023

2. Scientific Activities

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

ESS has an open call that is issued biennially for special modules to be included in a particular round alongside its core

questionnaire. In Round 11 the following two modules are included:

Box 1. Social Inequalities in Health and their Determinants

Health inequalities emerge in the intersection between social structures, individual actions and biological processes. While disease and premature mortality ultimately are biological phenomena taking place in individual bodies, social inequalities in ill health, disease and mortality are caused by socially determined conditions. There has been a strong renewed interest in health inequalities both among policymakers and in academia, even before the COVID-19 crisis. From 2018, the WHO organization-wide commitment to acting on health inequalities was presented in the 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023. A new Department devoted to Social determinants of Health was also launched.

The key element in this proposed second module wave is health and its broader social determinants. The European region is committed to lead the renewed effort to inform the debate on health inequalities, which was highlighted by WHO-Europe in the “Healthy, prosperous lives for all: European Health Equity Status Report” (WHO 2019). Despite the immense value of this report, it also highlighted the need for better data materials with high-quality indicators on several determinants of health. A repeat module on socioeconomic inequalities in health and their determinants will enable trend analyses and longitudinal application of the comprehensive pan-European comparative data set developed as part of the first module. The data will e.g., be used to evaluate the potency of differing European policy regimes, to track the medium-term impact of the covid-19 pandemic, and to further advance theories of social inequalities in health.

This module is led by Mirza Balaj, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Box 2. Gender in Contemporary Europe: Rethinking Equality and the Backlash

Decades of policy efforts and campaigns by governments, international organizations and social movements have brought significant progress towards gender equality. Many would argue, however, that gender equality still remains largely out of reach. Furthermore, there are visible backlashes against gender equality partly driven by the rhetoric of the radical right against “gender ideology”. Additionally, there is evidence there has been retrenchment on key indicators measuring the status of women in society.

In response to these seemingly countervailing trends, we propose a module that will allow researchers to examine contemporary attitudes about gender and gender equality, sexism, gender-based discrimination and policy responses to gender equality. We propose measuring five dimensions: identity, sexism, experiences, salience and policy instruments. While these five dimensions draw on a wealth of existing measures about gender attitudes, the proposed module would, we argue, redress some blind spots in current cross-national survey items such as experiences of gender-based discrimination, perceptions of masculinity and femininity; and attitudes about the role of gender equality in society.

QDT: Professor Susan Banducci, University of Exeter (UK); Hilde Coffe, University of Bath (UK); Marta Fraile, Spanish Scientific Research Institute, CSIC (Spain); Jessica Fortin-Rittberger, University of Salzburg (Austria); Amy C. Alexander, University of Gothenburg, (Sweden)

During the reporting period, the SAB selected two modules for inclusion in Round 12.

A summary of the two Round 12 rotating modules – selected by SAB 2022-2023 – can be found in boxes 3 and 4.

Box 3. Personal and social wellbeing

Wellbeing is one of the most dynamic domains of both contemporary public policy and academic scholarship, with an increasing number of governments collecting information on subjective and psychological wellbeing to understand better how citizens are doing, and to use that data to promote a more sustainable and equal society. Subjective wellbeing has also been shown to predict objective outcomes like health, work and social success as well as voting behaviour, while social wellbeing has been identified as a crucial resilience factor for nations, especially in collective emergencies.

ESS has been at the forefront of this development with two subjective wellbeing modules fielded in 2006 and 2012. However, wellbeing public policy and survey design has taken several major steps since the last wellbeing module. Thus, it would be timely to repeat the module to examine longitudinal developments, while also refining certain items and introducing new to capture current understanding of the key dimensions of individual and collective wellbeing. In particular, given that the community items from the last round have been found to not perform well, we propose to amend them with items that better capture people's sense of inclusion, solidarity, and social cohesion, including also measures of social cohesion online. Furthermore, harmony and balance have emerged as previously neglected wellbeing dimensions, and we propose to include them in the new module, along with new items on mindfulness and compassion.

QDT: Frank Martela, Aalto University (Finland); Antonella Delle Fave, University of Milan (Italy); Gundi Knies, Thünen Institute of Rural Studies (Germany); Mark Fabian, University of Warwick (UK)

Box 4. Attitudes to immigrants and refugees

This module is a repeat of the very successful modules on 'attitudes to immigration' fielded in the 1st and 7th rounds of the ESS. This module has been widely used by academics and policymakers. The topic remains highly important in substantive terms, and indeed has gained added salience from the refugee crises of the last decade and the rise in many European countries of radical populist parties that have adopted anti-immigrant policies. Given the continuing salience of refugees since the 2015/16 Syrian crisis, the major new focus of the proposed module will be on attitudes towards refugees, how they differ from attitudes towards other migrants, and why.

The key questions from the previous modules that have been the most widely used would be retained, and would provide a powerful resource for understanding the dynamics of attitude change across two decades. New questions would be developed in order to measure attitudes towards refugees in a comparable manner to the existing questions on attitudes towards migrants more generally. New concepts such as humanitarianism would be added to our previous theoretical model, and appropriate indicators developed, in order to reach a fuller understanding of attitudes towards refugees.

QDT: Anthony Heath, University of Oxford (UK); Tymofii Brik, Kyiv School of Economics (Ukraine); Alice Ramos, University of Lisbon (Portugal); Justyna Salamońska, Kozminski University (Poland); Borbála Simonovits, University of ELTE (Hungary)

3. Dissemination

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

During the annual reporting period (1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023), there have been a wide range of dissemination activities organised by the HQ, the Core Scientific Team (CST) and national coordinating teams (NCs).

The release of Round 10 (2020-22) data has led to an organic increase in the volume of articles published by the media – or research organisations – that reference the European Social Survey (ESS). In total, 1,041 mentions of the ESS were logged over the reporting period (+139 compared with 2021-22).

Including the survey methods series, substantive events held as part of SUSTAIN-2 and the annual Sir Roger Jowell Memorial Lecture – held in honour of the ESS co-founder – there were 14 webinars hosted by the ESS HQ.

At 31 May 2023, there were over 18,000 subscribers to the ESS user bulletin. This is a significant increase in the number of recipients since the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2018 required an opt in approach.

Media coverage and social media

ESS HQ monitored 1,041 mentions of 'European Social Survey' from 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023. This includes printed articles published by the traditional media (newspapers and magazines), online-only news articles, broadcast media, academic press releases/news sites and blog posts (academic and non-academic). These

articles included the term 'European Social Survey' (in English or another language) and were discovered using several media monitoring sources.¹

Most of this news coverage is generated organically through the external promotion of research based on analysis of ESS data, but some were generated by the ESS HQ, CST organisations or NCs. More importantly, the number of media articles published by globally or nationally recognisable media brands with a relatively wide audience increased to 198 over the annual period.

As ever, there tends to be an increase in the number of articles monitored immediately following a new data release. The second release of Round 10 data was published in December 2022, and included a significant number of countries (25) for the first time (the initial data release in June 2022 only included 10 countries). There was therefore a notable increase in the number of media mentions in January and February 2023 (272 and 147 respectively).

1. Sources used for media monitoring: Factiva (City, University of London Library Services); Google Alerts (for 'European Social Survey' in English and other languages); Signal Media Monitoring (City, University of London press office); Mention Alerts; Nexis (City, University of London Library Services); Press Reader (City, University of London Library Services) and Talkwalker Alerts. Additionally, some NC teams share articles that they have monitored in their country.

ESS social media channels have continued to grow steadily in terms of followers over the reporting period. However, there is a general pattern emerging across both Facebook and Twitter: despite a steady increase in the number of followers on both platforms, impressions and engagement are falling. The reverse is true on LinkedIn: as one would expect, impressions and engagement increase as the number of followers increases.

In terms of content, 10 updates are posted to Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter each weekday, with an additional five updates posted to Twitter each week. Videos are uploaded to the YouTube channel when they become available.

On 31 May 2023, the ESS Facebook page had 2,328 followers (+159 since 1 June 2022). The ESS Facebook posts have an average (mean) monthly reach ('the number of people who saw any of your Page posts') of 6,343. This equates to a reach per post average (mean) figure of 1,745.

On 31 May 2023, the ESS LinkedIn page had 2,003 followers (+612 since 1 June 2022 – the highest annual increase for this platform). ESS updates appear in the LinkedIn feeds of 6,957 (+2,643) people per month (mean). The ESS account has an engagement rate of 4.5%.²

2. Facebook and LinkedIn analytics refer to the number of times that the ESS post is actually seen on the timelines of followers or other users; Twitter analytics refer to the number of times that the ESS post appears on the timelines of followers or other users (these users have not necessarily seen the post).

On 31 May 2023, the ESS Twitter account had 19,593 followers (+2,498 since 1 June 2022). During the reporting period (1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023), there were 766 Tweets posted to the feeds of 864,400 users. Updates to the profile tend to receive an engagement rate of 1-2%. This suggests that approximately 8,644-17,288 people engaged directly with ESS Twitter over the period.

On 31 May 2023, the ESS YouTube channel had 472 subscribers (+138 since 1 June 2022). Over the annual period, ESS films were viewed on 7,404 (+897) occasions for a total of 666.4 (+15.9) hours. The channel now includes 45 videos.

Events

On 31 May 2023, the ESS YouTube channel had 472 subscribers (+138 since 1 June 2022). Over the annual period, ESS films were viewed on 7,404 (+897) occasions for a total of 666.4 (+15.9) hours. The channel now includes 45 videos.

The ESS has organised, delivered and attended many events during the reporting period (1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023), mainly online. These have been led by ESS HQ, CST organisations and NCs.

As well as seven survey methodology webinars – organised by ESS HQ with the host institution (City, University of London) and UK national coordinator (NatCen Social Research) – six 'policy webinars' funded by SUSTAIN-2 were organised. These substantive events focused on different aspects of the ESS, including rotating modules, time-series analysis, climate change, democracy and related studies.

In total, 14 events were organised by ESS HQ, generating 2,412 registrations and 1,264 attendees. This represents an average (mean) of 172 registrations and 90 attendees. All events were held online only other than one event – the hybrid Sir Roger Jowell Memorial Lecture – which was held in-person and broadcast online. Whilst substantive webinars elicited

lower audiences than the survey methods seminars, it should be noted that there have now been 51 methods events.

Listed in the table below are a selection of events that have taken place over the reporting period with notable ESS involvement. This includes events led by the ESS HQ, CST and NCs.

Table 3.1. ESS Events 2022-2023

Date	Event, location	Details
02/06/2022	Workshop: Introduction to the ESS, University of Limerick, Ireland	Organised by the Irish national team, a workshop was held in person as part of the University of Limerick Summer School in Social Science Research Methods.
2-3/06/2022	ESS related methodological papers, Center for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary	Organised by the Hungarian national team, a thematic panel on ESS methods included 10 presentations delivered to 30 in person attendees.
17/06/2022	Book launch: Values in Transition XIII, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia	Organised by the Slovenian national team, a book that included three chapters on the ESS was launched at an event with 40 in person attendees.
07/07/2022	European societies in the times of turmoil, Center for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary	Organised by the Hungarian national team, an ESS Budapest Conference was held: European societies in the times of turmoil. Snapshots from the ESS. It included 10 papers on a range of topics to 30 in person attendees.
11/07/2022	Conducting ESS Round 10 in Greece, Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece	Organised by the Greek national team, a conference was held at the Acropolis Museum. Around 10 substantive and methodological presentations were delivered.
19/07/2022	Workshop: Introduction to the ESS, online	Organised by the Irish national team, a webinar was held on the benefit of open access data. This webinar was held for academics and students based at the University of Marmara, Istanbul, Turkey.

Date	Event, location	Details
26/09/2022	ESS Data Workshop, Bielefeld, Germany	Organised by the German national team, a workshop on how to access and analyse ESS data was held as part of the German Sociological Association annual meeting.
29/09/2022	National science event, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania and online	Organised by the Lithuanian national team, a national science event – ESS Picnic IV-2022. What is relevant for Europe and Lithuania: EST data – was held. The event included six presentations by researchers and practitioners to 54 attendees.
12/10/2022	Sir Roger Jowell Memorial Lecture, City, University of London and online	Organised by ESS HQ, Rosie Campbell (King's College London) delivered the annual lecture in memory of the ESS co-founder, Sir Roger Jowell: Exposing the gender gap – why women voters will decide the next election. 173 attended the event in person or watched online.
13-14/10/2022	ESS Visegrad Network+ Conference, Prague, Czechia	Organised by the Czech national team and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, an event was held with 20 in-person attendees.
19/10/2022	Survey methods seminar, online	Organised by ESS HQ, City, University of London and NatCen Social Research, Ranjit K. Singh (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences) presented Harmonizing survey data across different survey modes to 148 viewers.
4/11/2022	Training: ESS data visualisation, online	Organised by the Estonian national team, a training course on ESS data visualisation within the R package was delivered to 67 viewers.
4-5/11/2022	Round table events, Ljubljana, Slovenia	Organised by the Slovenian national team, two round table events were held as part of the of the Slovenian Sociological Society annual conference. Social acceptability of spatial impacts in renewable energy scenarios saw 50 attendees; Presentation and design of the environmental database corpus had 30 attendees.
17/11/2022	Survey methods seminar, online	Organised by ESS HQ, City, University of London and NatCen Social Research, Jo D'Ardenne (NatCen) presented Can tablets collect data from people with no internet or limited digital literacy? to 64 viewers.
07/12/2022	Policy webinar, online	Organised by ESS HQ and funded by SUSTAIN-2, several speakers presented at Young people in Europe: Findings from the ESS. 52 people watched the event online.

Date	Event, location	Details
8/12/2022	ESS data, Tallinn Strategy Center, Estonia	Organised by the Estonian national team, a presentation was delivered to the Tallinn Strategy Center about using ESS data at regional level.
25/01/2023	20 years of ESS data in Norway, Hotel Norge, Bergen, Norway	Organised by the Norwegian national team, an event was held to mark 20 years of ESS data. Presentations also analysed the newly available Round 10 dataset.
30/01/2023	ESS Round 10 in Greece, EKKE, Athens, Greece and online	Organised by the Greek national team, a seminar – Attitudes, orientations and values for politics, society and others – was held at the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE).
06/02/2023	Survey methods seminar, online	Organised by ESS HQ, City, University of London and NatCen Social Research, Laura Wilson, Emma Dickinson and Colin Beavan-Seymour (Office for National Statistics) presented How Respondent Centred Design can be used to tackle survey challenges to 162 viewers.
07/02/2023	Policy webinar, online	Organised by ESS HQ and funded by SUSTAIN-2, several speakers from rotating module design teams presented Insights from a selection of ESS repeated modules to 73 viewers.
20/02/2023	Policy webinar, online	Organised by ESS HQ and funded by SUSTAIN-2, speakers involved with the Australian panel replication of ESS questions presented Life in Australia: Replicating the ESS to 31 viewers.
23/02/2023	ESS10 in Israel, online	Organised by the Israeli national team, presentations that focused on self-completion and fieldworker assisted data collection during Round 10 were delivered to 20 viewers.
02/03/2023	ESS publicity event, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania and online	Organised by the Lithuanian national team, an event for young scientists was delivered to 40 attendees.
21/03/2023	Survey methods seminar, online	Organised by ESS HQ, City, University of London and NatCen Social Research, Nancy Bates (retired, former US Census Bureau) and Katherine Dalke (Penn State College of Medicine) presented Measuring sex, gender identity and sexual orientation to 122 viewers.
04/04/2023	Policy webinar, online	Organised by ESS HQ and funded by SUSTAIN-2, several speakers presented at 20 years of the ESS: Time-series analysis. 92 people watched the event online.

Date	Event, location	Details
03/05/2023	Policy webinar, online	Organised by ESS HQ and funded by SUSTAIN-2, several speakers presented at 20 years of the ESS: Democracy and politics. 89 people watched the event online.
19-20/05/2023	Croatian and European Societies in a Comparative Perspective, Split, Croatia	The Croatian national team delivered a presentation as part of the 9th National Congress of the Croatian Sociological Association.
24/05/2023	Policy webinar, online	Organised by ESS HQ and funded by SUSTAIN-2, several speakers (including the Round 8 QDT) presented at Assessing European attitudes to climate change and energy. 85 people watched the event online.
31/05/2023	Methods seminar, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania and online	Organised by the Lithuanian national team, a seminar – Missing values in surveys: Ignore, analyze or modify? – was held. A presentation was delivered to 64 attendees.
31/05/2023	Seminar: 20 years of the ESS, Academic Conference Center, Prague, Czechia	Organised by the Czech national team and the Ministry of Education and Culture, an event was held at the Academic Conference Center (AKC) with 14 in-person attendees and 20 online viewers.

ESS User bulletin

When users register to access ESS data, they can opt-in to receive the ESS User Bulletin. This was distributed as a plain text email to around 100,000 subscribers until the introduction of General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018. All registered users then had to opt-in again, which initially reduced the mailing list to fewer than 10,000.

Up until September 2022, the user bulletin was drafted by ESS HQ and distributed as a plain text email quarterly. From September 2022 the user bulletin was distributed by Make AS – a

third-party email distribution provider – monthly. Additionally, an API has been applied to the Make AS account, meaning that the opt-in option on an ESS Data Portal account communicates automatically to the Make AS platform.

The first monthly user bulletin (September 2022) was distributed to 16,934 recipients. The email was opened by 39.3% of recipients and 6.5% clicked on at least one weblink. The latest edition (May 2023) was circulated to 18,211 subscribers: 43.4% opened the email and 5.6% clicked on at least one link.

ESS Website

The move of ESS data to the ESS Data Portal means that visitor metrics for the main ESS website have decreased somewhat. Whilst all other information remains on the main website, it is clear that the majority of ESS users are looking for data.

From 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023, 178,711 users (-35,945 or -16.75%) accessed at least one page on the ESS website. These users logged onto the website 299,466 times (-77,593 or -20.58%) viewing a total of 583,525 webpages (-878,603 or 60.09%). The average session duration decreased (from 00:03:45 to 00:02:00). Other metrics that decreased slightly from the previous year included: number of sessions per user (-4.6%) and number of pages per session (-49.75%). The bounce rate also increased slightly, to 51.29%.

In total over the period, 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023, three data alerts were published on the ESS website. These were all related to the release of Round 10 data: edition 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0. Over this reporting period, 26 news articles were published on the ESS website.

It is worth noting that preparatory work has begun in this reporting period ahead of the launch of a newly designed main ESS website. This will make ESS news and information more accessible than ever before.

Engagement with the Joint Research Centre

Following an email sent to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) – the European Commission's science and knowledge service – three meetings were held between relevant departments and the ESS. An initial online meeting was organised with the Head of the Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights, on 8 December 2022. Around 30 people from various teams across took part in the discussion around how ESS data can be beneficial to their work.

Subsequently, a second online meeting was held between the ESS and several other teams at the JRC on 12 January 2023. This included representation from JRC teams including Member States Partnerships and International Relations; Digital Economy; EU Policy Lab-Foresight, Design & Behavioural Insights; Disease Prevention; Economic and Financial Resilience; Territorial Development; Industrial Strategy, Skills and Technology Transfer; Innovation Policies and Economic Impact; Science for modelling, monitoring and evaluation; and Scientific development programmes.

Members of the JRC Disease prevention team were sufficiently interested in organising a more tailored online discussion on 13 February. This included participation from the external design team who developed the Round 7 health rotating module.

Data user statistics

The total number of registered ESS data users at 31 May 2023 is 218 682.

The users include academics, government and non-governmental organisations, think tanks, journalists, students and private individuals.

The ESS User Statistics documents the usage of ESS data from the launch of ESS Round 1 in 2002 to date. Two groups of users are reported:

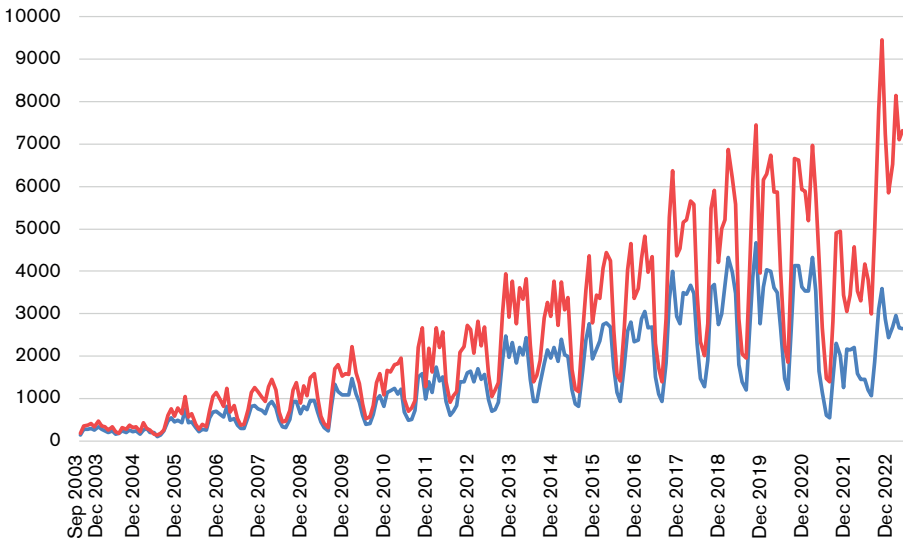
“Registered users” – registered at the ESS website and thereby eligible for using ESS data.

“ESS data downloaders” – registered users who have actually downloaded ESS data at least once.

The ESS User Statistics reports, available publicly on the ESS website and updated periodically, include tables showing numbers of registered users and ESS data downloaders by country, user type (faculty members, students etc.) and data type (ESS round, cumulative data and multilevel data) – see europeansocialsurvey.org/about/user_statistics.html.

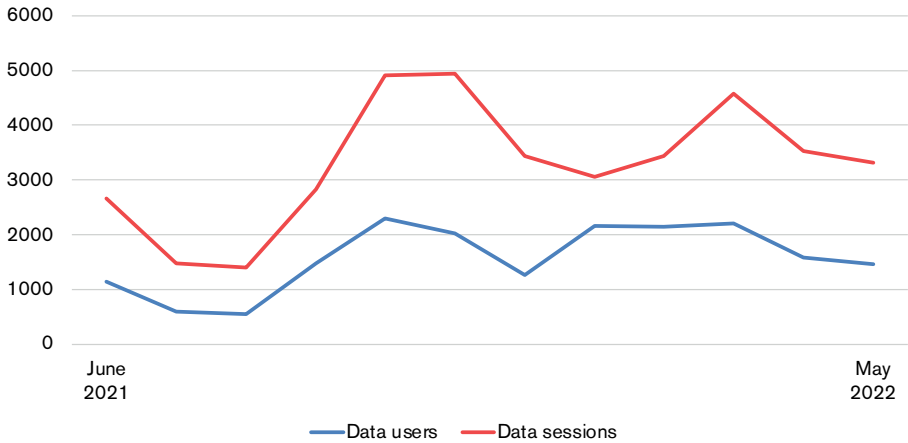
Figure 3.1 presents the pattern of data user numbers and data sessions per month (2003-2022) and Figure 3.2 provides an overview of the annual data user and data session activity (2021-2022).

Figure 3.1. Data sessions and data users per month, September 2003 - December 2022



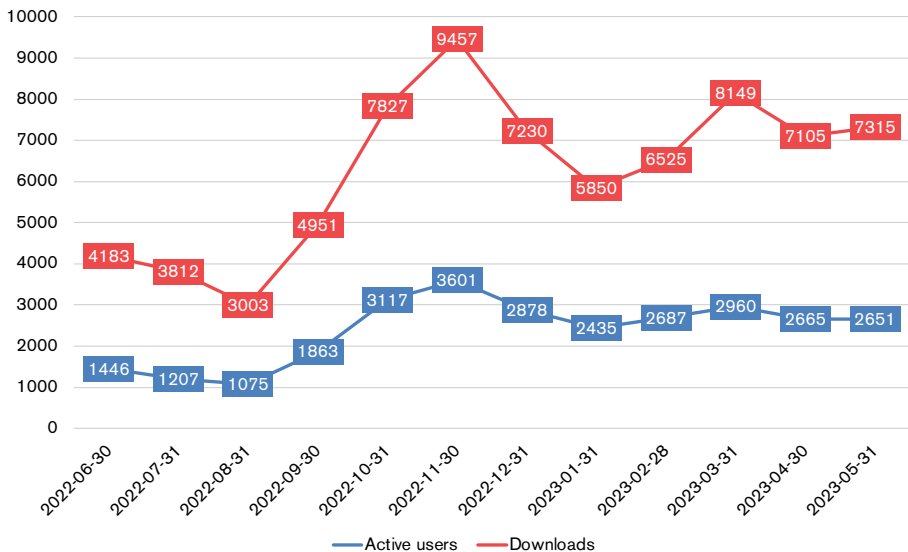
Source: Sikt, June 2023

Figure 3.2. Data users and data sessions per month, June 2021 - May 2022 (Data download and on-line analysis)



Source: Sikt, June 2023

Figure 3.3. Active users and data downloads per month, June 2022 - May 2023



Source: Sikt, June 2023

Google citation research

The CST Institution, University of Ljubljana, undertakes analyses of citations using Google analytics. This exercise considers all relevant (English language) and unique 'ESS based' publication by a) methodological or b) substantive focus, which include data with at least one ESS item. Excluded are non-English publications, publications with no data usage (e.g. item borrowing), secondary data usage (citations from primary ESS based publications), non-academic publications, expired links and duplicates of journal articles.

The final result of the citation analysis 2003-2022 reports that there were 6,585 relevant publications and presentations (ESS ERIC Deliverable 11.13 Bibliographic indexing report, Work Programme 2021-2023). Abstracts are coded allowing details of the precise item use (substantive or method to be ascertained).

The analysis undertaken indicates that

- most publications are in journals
- the majority of publications are in the journal field 'sociology'
- the focus of the articles is mainly on substantive, not methodological topics.

Figure 3.4. ESS substantive and methodological publications across publication categories



Source: University of Ljubljana, May 2023

The number of ESS based publications is currently increasing year on year by around 500-600 publications. Figure 3.4 indicates the publication type and the substantive/methodological focus of publication and key topics.

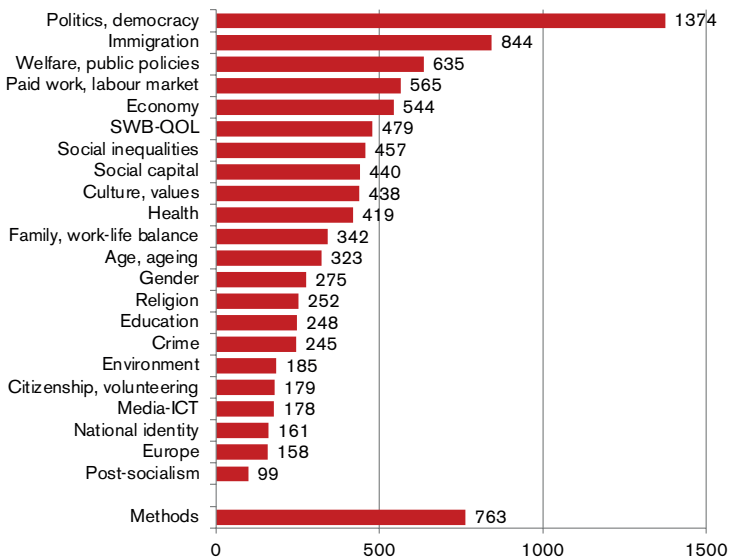
Academic communities

The largest number of ESS-based journal articles are published in sociological, political science and economic journals. Three additional strongest fields are health and medicine, psychology and social science methods.

Another key approach to monitoring ESS academic outreach is topic mapping. Figure 3.5 presents a picture

of substantive research topics most frequently investigated by ESS based authors (with up to two topics coded for each publication). Among the substantive publications, the topic most frequently addressed by ESS based authors by far remains politics, with the widespread exploration of the functioning of modern democratic systems. The second largest topic is immigration – something that continues to be one of the most pressing social issues facing European countries and has an association with many other issues, such as political and welfare attitudes. Other prominent topics include public policies and welfare, work-life conflict, macro-economic conditions and others.

Figure 3.5. ESS outreach into academic fields in the 2003-2022 period, based on journal typology (N=3270)



4. Governance and Operations

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

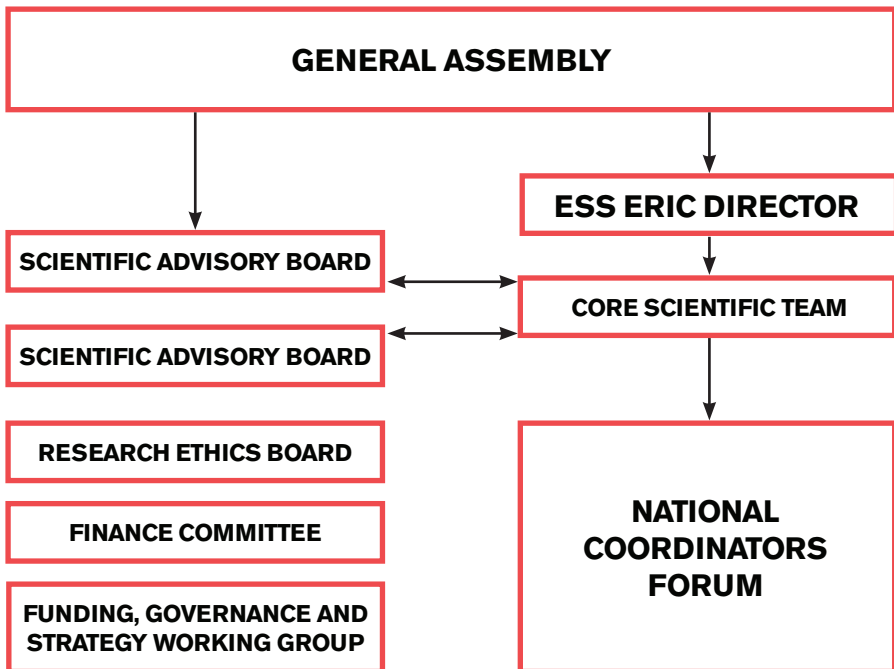
Throughout 2022-2023, all Committees of the General Assembly and of the Director were in place and operational.

At ESS ERIC Headquarters, located at City, University of London, the necessary arrangements relating to the management of the research infrastructure were implemented.

Governance Arrangements

The governance of the ESS ERIC is outlined in its Statutes and displayed diagrammatically below. Standing Orders are periodically adopted by the General Assembly, as appropriate.

Figure 4.1. Governance of the ESS ERIC



Meetings of the ESS ERIC General Assembly, its Committees and the Director's Committees

The ESS ERIC General Assembly met three times in the year 01 June 2022 -31 May 2023; in November 2022, January 2023 and March 2023. Key decisions, in addition to the routine business of approving applications for membership and Guest country status, including the adoption the audit and other reports, related to the contingency planning required to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to consider and approve actions relating to the planned mode switch of data collection.

All of the committees of the General Assembly and of the Director met at least once in the 2022-2023 period. (The first meeting of the formally constituted Funding, Governance and Strategy Working Group met on 1 June 2023.) The secretariat to all committees of the General Assembly is provided by the ESS ERIC HQ, with CST Institution GESIS sharing the organisation of the National Coordinators' Forum and the SAB.

An extra-Statute grouping, the Troika, comprising the Host Country, represented by the Economic and Social Research Council (UK National Representative), the Host Institution, City, University of London (represented by its Vice-President for Research & Enterprise), and the Chair of the General Assembly, representing the GA, has met periodically over the course of the

operation of the ESS ERIC. It met in May 2023.

Members of the GA committees are listed in Annex 2.

The Director's committees were also active in this period. These committees are:

(i) the Core Scientific Team (CST) – the institutions are GESIS, Germany; The Netherlands Institute for Social Research/SCP, Universitat Pompeu Fabra/UPF, Spain; Sikt, Norway, University of Ljubljana and the University of Essex, UK.

(ii) the National Coordinators' Forum – the representative of National Coordinators elected to attend General Assembly meetings is Dr Peter Grand (Austria). The representative of NCs elected to attend meetings of the Director's Core Scientific Team is Dr Sveinung Arnesen (Norway).

ESS ERIC HQ provided the secretariat for the various meetings, preparing minutes of the meetings and background papers, as appropriate.

Table 4.1 provides an overview of meetings (June 2022 - May 2023).

ESS ERIC Deliverables produced in the period 01 June 2021 – 31 May 2023

The ESS ERIC Work Programme has a set of scheduled deliverables which are produced through the Work Programme period. Deliverables largely have public

access status, excepting FINCOM documents and some GA papers. Some deliverables have been rescheduled for the period to December 2023. These will be reported in the next Annual Activity Report.

Table 4.2. ESS ERIC Work Programme 2021-2023 - Deliverables submitted 2022-2023

TITLE OF DELIVERABLE
Minutes and meeting papers NCF19
Sampling guidelines for Round 11
Round 11 results from Advance Translation
Media Monitoring Report
myESS assessment
myESS maintenance - technical specifications
ESS11 Translation Guidelines
ESS11 Translation Quality Checklist
ESS11 Fieldwork Questionnaire
Round 11 Contact Forms
Report on sampling deviations at Round 10
Design weights for Round 10 first release
Round 11 source questionnaire and showcards
ESS11 (T)VFF (Translation Verification Follow-up Form)
ESS11 Source questionnaire imported into TC
ESS11 Fieldwork projections template
Minutes and meeting papers NCF20
ESS10 1st release country quality reports
Round 11 advance letters
Round 11 interviewer briefing and training materials

TITLE OF DELIVERABLE
ESS 2022 Data Protocol
Updated Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs Strategy
ESS annual bibliographic report 2022, with appendices
ESS11 Fieldwork monitoring guidelines
R11 question development: Report on quality evaluation conducted using SQP
Deployment of myESS R11: users' manual and training materials
Annual activity and status report for the ESS Website including user support
ESS11 Report on Adjudicators meeting
Bibliographic indexing report
Analyses of MTMM experiments in Round 10
Assessment of socio-demographic sample composition in ESS R10
Minutes from FINCOM circulated to GA
Minutes and action points from REB meeting
ESS11 Report on meeting with TEP
ESS Online Bibliography updating Report 2021-2023
Reports to GA and EC on activities
Edition 1 of MS data and meta data from ESS10
myESS repository (first version)
R11 Guidelines for Country Contacts Round 11

Data Protection

The ESS ERIC Work Programme has a set of scheduled deliverables which are produced through the Work Programme period. Deliverables largely have public access status, excepting FINCOM documents and some GA papers. Some deliverables have been rescheduled for the period to December 2023. These will be reported in the next Annual Activity Report.

ESS ERIC first appointed Sikt as its Data Protection Officer (DPO) in May 2018. The role of the ESS ERIC DPO is to, inter alia:

- Provide advice and guidance to the ESS ERIC GA and Director about its obligations pursuant to data protection laws
- Act as a contact point for data subjects, the supervisory authority and internally within the organization
- Raise the profile of data protection compliance across ESS ERIC
- Advise the ESS ERIC Research Ethics Board on questions about data protection aspects of proposed research.

Together with an ESS HQ (City, University of London) staff member, the DPO undertook activities to ensure ESS ERIC compliance with applicable data protection law throughout 2022-2023.

During this period, a key task of the DPO has been to advise HQ further to its assessment of ESS ERIC's data processing agreements with all processors.

As part of the preparation for R11, preparatory work for the Data Protection Impact Assessment commenced. Work relating to an Addendum to include the R11 Self-completion activities was initiated. The DPO has also been included in the privacy assessments of all other processing activities that take place on behalf of, or for, ESS ERIC.

Further, the DPO provided ESS ERIC with information on its obligations related to possible transfers of personal data to third countries. Guidance on treatment of data subjects' requests was completed and made available to participating country teams in ESS Round 11.

An important element of the role of the DPO is to raise the profile of data protection compliance across ESS ERIC, and promote a culture of data protection. Within the period the DPO has presented to the National Coordinators Forum, to Field Directors, and held individual country briefings.

The DPO presents a Report on Data Protection to the ESS ERIC General Assembly at each of its meetings. This report includes recommendations for action, as appropriate.

5. Finances

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

The arrangements for financing the ESS ERIC central costs are detailed in the ESS ERIC Statutes (Annex III). ESS ERIC finances are organised in the following way – the individual countries (the Member, Observer and Guest countries) contribute to the central coordinating costs of the ESS ERIC. A condition of membership (including for Observer and Guest status) is that countries also commit to carrying out the survey 'at their own expense' in accordance with the specifications for participating countries (ESS ERIC Statutes Article 4.1d(i)).

Country contributions

Country contributions for the biennial period 2021 - 2023 were approved by the General Assembly at its 19th meeting on 7 April 2021. Annex III to the ESS ERIC Statutes presents an overview of country contributions 2021-2023 and includes details of the formula applied in the calculation of individual country contributions in the Explanatory Note to Annex.

The country contributions for 2022-2023 are presented in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1. Country contributions to central costs of ESS ERIC, 1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023

COUNTRY	STATUS	CONTRIBUTION (€)
Austria	Member	66,247
Belgium	Member	74,951
Bulgaria	Member	22,500
Croatia	Member	22,500
Cyprus	Member	22,500
Czechia	Member	46,350
Estonia	Member	22,500
Finland	Member	49,081
France	Member	291,428
Germany	Member	404,629
Greece	Guest	42,776
Hungary	Member	22,500
Iceland	Member	22,500
Ireland	Member	59,261

COUNTRY	STATUS	CONTRIBUTION (€)
Israel	Member	59,642
Italy	Member	223,632
Kosovo	Guest	22,500
Latvia	Member	22,500
Lithuania	Member	22,500
Montenegro	Member	22,500
Netherlands	Member	110,663
Norway	Member	63,540
Poland	Member	79,277
Portugal	Member	45,826
Serbia	Member	22,500
Slovakia	Member	22,500
Slovenia	Member	22,500
Spain	Member	158,139
Sweden	Member	76,540
Switzerland	Observer	91,842
Ukraine*	Guest	22,500
United Kingdom	Member	299,978
Hosting Fee (UK)	Member Host	400,000

*Waived by GA

Audit Statement

Buzzacott LLP was appointed to carry out the audit for ESS ERIC for the period: 01 June 2022 – 31 May 2024

The audit was undertaken in July/August 2023 and its findings reported to the FINCOM at its meeting on 12th October 2023. The recommendation of FINCOM for the adoption of the Audit Report was sent for consideration by the General Assembly at its 25th meeting on 29 November 2023. The General Assembly adopted the Audit Report at this meeting.

Opinion:

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

We [Buzzacott 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 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).

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.

The audited accounts are presented in Annex 4

6. EU Funding: Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe

Annual Activity Report, 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

In the period 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023, there were three EU HORIZON 2020 (H2020) projects in operation in which ESS ERIC participates, as coordinator or as partner. Details of the projects are presented below:

EU HORIZON 2020 Project Coordinated by ESS ERIC

Next Steps in Securing the Sustainability of the European Social Survey, European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS-SUSTAIN-2): GA 871063

ESS-SUSTAIN-2, a €5 million project, funded under HORIZON 2020, aims to create sustainability through a structural strengthening of the ESS and by future proofing the infrastructure. ESS is not seeking another few years Commission funding to keep it afloat, an approach unlikely to yield long-term sustainability (and in any event these costs are now met by ERIC members). Rather it seeks a vital helping hand to help complete the transition of the ESS into a research infrastructure that is financially sound and scientifically equipped for the future. By developing links with the European Values Survey, establishing global partners, engaging with policy makers, harnessing technology to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness and launching the world's first probability-based online panel, this proposal aims to give the European Social Survey the strongest possible foundation to succeed in the years ahead. This project commenced in January 2020. It will conclude in March 2024.

EU HORIZON 2020 Projects in which ESS ERIC participates as a Partner

ESS ERIC participates in a HORIZON 2020 project coordinated by ICOS ERIC (PAUL Project GA 101037319) and in a HORIZON 2020 project (EOSC Future GA 101017536).

Three Horizon 2020 projects in which ESS ERIC participates as a partner, with Linked Third Parties, including the Host Institution/HQ City, University of London and CST Institutions, GESIS, UPF, UL and Sikt, concluded:

- *Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud: SSHOC, GA 823782, www.sshopencloud.eu*
- *ERIC Forum Implementation Project, GA 823798, www.eric-forum.eu*
- *Increasing the Visibility of Research Infrastructures: RI-VIS, GA 824063, www.ri-vis.eu*

EU Horizon Europe

ESS ERIC will participate in two HEU projects, as Coordinator of Infra4NextGen and the ERIC Forum 2 Project. Preparatory actions for proposal development took place in 2022-2023.

ERIC Forum 2 will commence on 1 September 2023. It is a four year project.

Infra4NextGen will commence on 1 March 2024. It is also a four year project.

Annex 1

ESS ERIC General Assembly: National Representatives

Members of the ESS ERIC General Assembly are represented by a National Representative.

The Chair of the General Assembly is Professor Michael Breen, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland. He was re-elected for a second and third four-year term in October 2016 and April 2021.

The Deputy Chair is Dr Susanna Bylin, Swedish Research Council, Sweden. She was elected for a four year term at the GA meeting of 20 October 2021. The other representatives are:

Austria: Julia Prikoszovits, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

Belgium: Bart Dumolyn, delegated representative from the Flemish Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (representing the Flemish Community); Aziz Naji, delegate for the FPS Science policy (representing the federal government); and Florence Vandendorpe, delegated representative from the Federation Wallonia-Brussels (representing the French-speaking Community)

Bulgaria: Yumer Kodzhayumer, Science Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science

Croatia: Staša Skenžić, Ministry of Science and Education

Cyprus: Eleana Gabriel, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy

Czechia: Naďa Drizga, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Estonia: Erle Rikmann, Analysis and Statistics Department, Ministry of Social Affairs

Finland: Päivi Messo, delegated representative from the Research Council of Finland

France: Eleonora Zuolo, French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

Germany: Katharina Pijnenburg, Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Hungary: Tamás Takács, National Research, Development and Innovation Office

Iceland: Guðbjörg Andrea Jónsdóttir, University of Iceland

Ireland: Rosemary Sweeney, Irish Research Council

Israel: Dr Alex Altshuler, Ministry of Science and Technology

Italy: Sebastiano Fadda, National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP)

Latvia: Diāna Laipniece, Ministry of Education and Science

Lithuania: Associate Professor Aurelija Stelmokienė, delegated representative of the Research Council of Lithuania

Montenegro: Milena Milonjić, Ministry of Science and Technological Development

Netherlands: Joris Voskuilen, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

Norway: Ministry of Education and Research, represented by Siri H. Hollekim Haaland, Research Council of Norway

Poland: Anna Głąbska, Ministry of Education and Science

Portugal: Analia Torres, University of Lisbon

Serbia: Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, represented by Dr. Goran Bašić, Institute of Social Sciences

Slovak Republic: Robert Szabó, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Republic of Slovenia: Dr. Albin Kralj, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MVZI)

Spain: Marian Rodríguez Parrilla, Ministry of Science and Innovation

Sweden: Susanna Bylin, delegated representative from the Swedish Research Council

UK: Beccy Shipman, Economic and Social Research Council, UK Research and Innovation (Host Country).

Switzerland has Observer status and is represented by Lea Bühlmann, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation.

Countries with Guest status in Round 11 include **Greece**, represented by the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation, **Kosovo**, represented by Kaltrina Kelmendi, University of Pristina, and **Ukraine**, funded by the ESS General Assembly, represented by Kyiv School of Economics. Georgia withdrew from ESS Round 11.

Annex 2

Membership of the Committees of the ESS ERIC General Assembly

Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) at 31 May 2023

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) comprises eight members, appointed by the General Assembly following nominations from its Members.

- Chair: Professor Christian Staerklé, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- Deputy Chair: Professor Hajo Boomgaarden, University of Vienna, Austria
- Professor Patrizia Catellani, Catholic University of Milan, Italy
- Professor Dana Hamplová, Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic
- Professor Karsten Hank, WISO, University of Cologne, Germany
- Dr. Pedro Magalhães, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Professor Caroline Rapp, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Dr. Tom Smith, National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, USA

The ESS ERIC Director, Rory Fitzgerald (ESS ERIC HQ at City, University of London) and the ESS ERIC Deputy Director - Scientific, Dr. Angelika Scheuer (Core Scientific Team - GESIS) attend SAB meetings as observers.

ESS ERIC Methods Advisory Board (MAB) at 31 May 2023

The Methods Advisory Board (MAB) advises the General Assembly, the Director and the Core Scientific Team on technical and methodological aspects of the survey. It comprises six members, appointed by the General Assembly following nominations from its members.

- Chair: Professor Caroline Roberts, University of Lausanne and FORS - Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences, Switzerland
- Deputy Chair: Professor Johan Martinsson, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Professor Michael Bosnjak, Leibniz Institute for Psychology, Germany
- Professor Giancarlo Gasperoni, University of Bologna, Italy
- Professor Sylvia Kritzing, University of Vienna, Austria
- Professor Edith de Leeuw, Utrecht University, Netherlands

The ESS ERIC Director, Rory Fitzgerald (ESS ERIC HQ at City, University of London) attends MAB meetings as an observer.

ESS ERIC Finance Committee (FINCOM) at 31 May 2023

The Finance Committee (FINCOM) is comprised of four members, two of which are National Representatives at the General Assembly. FINCOM advises the General Assembly and the Director on the financial health of the ESS ERIC.

- Beccy Shipman, Economic and Social Research Council, UK Research and Innovation, UK (Chair, National Representative, replaced Carlos Pueyo in March 2022)
- Diāna Laipniece, Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia (National Representative)
- Professor Michael Healy, Mary Immaculate College, Ireland (external expert) (to 31 May 2023)
- Dr. Eckard Kämper, DFG, Germany (external expert)

The ESS ERIC Director, Rory Fitzgerald (ESS ERIC HQ, City, University of London) attends FINCOM meetings as observer.

ESS ERIC Research Ethics Board (REB) at 31 May 2023

- Julie de Jong (External expert and Chair)
- Dr. Tom Smith (SAB representative)
- Manuela Bonacci (National Coordinators' representative)
- Professor Edith de Leeuw (MAB representative)
- Professor Gert Wagner (External expert)
- Dr Emily Gilbert (External expert)

ESS ERIC Funding, Governance and Strategy Working Group at 31 May 2023

The Chair of the General Assembly acts as Chair of the FGSWG.

The ESS ERIC Director, Rory Fitzgerald, attends FGSWG meetings.

- Professor Michael Breen, Chair
- Eleonora Zuolo
- Meike Koops (to January 2023)
- Joris Voskuilen
- Beccy Shipman

Annex 3

Membership of the ESS ERIC Director's Committees: CST and NCF

The Director, Professor Rory Fitzgerald, is located at ESS ERIC Headquarters at its Host Institution, City, University of London. He and his team are supported in the design and implementation of the ESS ERIC Work Programme by six other institutions that collectively comprise the ESS ERIC Core Scientific Team.

Core Scientific Team (CST) at 31 May 2023

Members of the CST are:

- 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)

Senior representatives of the CST attend the meetings of the ESS ERIC General Assembly.

National Coordinators' Forum (NCF) at 31 May 2023

The ESS ERIC Director also convenes a National Coordinators' Forum, attended by National Coordinators appointed by ESS ERIC Members and Observers. For the period 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023, the representative of NCs elected to attend meetings of the Director's Core Scientific Team is Dr Sveinung Arnesen (Norway); alternate Dr Alice Ramos (Portugal). The representative of NCs attending the ESS ERIC General Assembly is Dr Peter Grand (Austria).

Austria: Dr. Peter Grand, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)

Belgium: Professor Bart Meuleman, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and Professor Pierre Baudewyns, University of Louvain

Bulgaria: Professor Venelin Boshnakov, University of National and World Economy

Croatia: Professor Dragan Bagić, University of Zagreb

Cyprus: Professor Stelios Stylianou, University of Cyprus

Czechia: Dr. Klára Plecítá, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences

Estonia: Dr. Liisa Talving, University of Tartu

Finland: Professor Heikki Ervasti, University of Turku

- France:** Professor Nicolas Sauger and Dr. Agnaly Michaud, Sciences Po
- Germany:** Dr. Oshrat Hochman, GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences
- Hungary:** Dr. Bence Ságvári, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Iceland:** Dr. Guðbjörg Andrea Jonsdóttir (to 31 December 2022); Professor Sigrún Ólafsdóttir, University of Iceland (from 01 January 2023)
- Ireland:** Professor Mathew Creighton and Dr. Micheál Collins, UCD
- Israel:** Dr. Sigal Alon, B. I. Cohen Inst. for Public Opinion Research at Tel-Aviv University
- Italy:** Dr. Sveva Balduini, National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP)
- Kosovo (Guest):** Dr. Besjanë Krasniqi, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, and Kaltrina Kelmendi, University of Pristina
- Latvia:** Dr. Jurijs Ņikišins, University of Latvia
- Lithuania:** Dr. Apolonijus Žilyš, Vytautas Magnus University
- Montenegro:** Dr. Jadranka Kaludjerović, University of Donja Gorica
- Netherlands:** Professor Aat Liefbroer, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI)
- Norway:** Dr. Sveinung Arnesen, University of Bergen (UiB)
- Poland:** Dr. Michal Kotnarowski, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Portugal:** Dr. Alice Ramos, Institute of Social Sciences (ICS), University of Lisbon
- Serbia:** Dr. Dragan Stanojević, University of Belgrade
- Slovak Republic:** Dr. Denisa Fedáková and Dr. Michal Kentoš, Institute of Social Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Slovenia:** Dr. Slavko Kurdija, University of Ljubljana
- Spain:** Pablo Oñate, University of Valencia on behalf of Centre for Sociological Studies (CIS)
- Sweden:** Professor Mikael Hjerm, Umeå University
- Switzerland (Observer):** Dr. Michael Ochsner, FORS - Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences
- UK:** Alun Humphrey, NatCen Social Research

Annex 4

Audited Accounts 2022-2023

Auditor: Buzzacott LLP, London, United Kingdom

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ERIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023	1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023
	€	€
INCOME	3,159,734	4,453,363
Direct costs	(3,133,692)	(4,326,154)
GROSS SURPLUS	26,042	127,209
Administrative expenses	(86,556)	(87,951)
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	(60,514)	39,258

Auditor: Buzzacott LLP, London, United Kingdom

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 2023

	2023		2022	
	€	€	€	€
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	430,296		36,692	
Cash at bank	3,009,709		2,887,589	
	<u>3,440,005</u>		<u>2,924,281</u>	
CREDITORS:				
amounts falling due within one year	(3,411,054)		(2,834,816)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS				
NET ASSETS		<u>28,951</u>		<u>89,465</u>
RESERVES				
Income and expenditure account		<u>28,951</u>		<u>89,465</u>
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>28,951</u>		<u>89,465</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 1A Small Entities of FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the General Assembly and were signed on its behalf on 17 November 2023.

Annex 5

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were presented to the ESS ERIC General Assembly at its meeting of 7 April 2022. It was agreed that information relating to these KPIs would be included in an Annex to the Annual Activity Report.

Table A5.1. KPIs for the European Social Survey ERIC, 1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023

Objective	KPIs	ESS application and source (+/- compared to previous period)
Enabling scientific excellence	1. Number of user requests for access	Downloaders - Ever: 165,980; last 12 months: 20,736 (+10,233 compared to previous period); Downloads - Ever: 1,478,007; last 12 months: 75,407 (new measure) ³
	2. Number of users served	Registered users - Ever: 218,686; last 12 months: 18,355 (-360) ⁴
	3. Number of publications	Academic articles - Ever: 6,585; last 12 months: 619 (+76) ⁵
	4. Percentage of top (10%) cited publications	21% (N/A) ⁶
Delivery of education and training	5. Number of master and PhD students using the RI	PhD and students registered - Ever: 166,587; last 12 months: 14,383 (-1,020) ⁷
	6. Training of people who are not RI staff	Training course attendees - Ever: 1,222 ⁸ ; Last 12 months: 406 (-310) ⁹
Enhancing collaboration in Europe	7. Number of Members, Observers and Guests of the RI (due to take part in ESS Round 11) ESS Member countries shown in bold ; ESS Observer shown in <i>italics</i> ; ESS Round 11 Guests shown in plain text ESFRI status is shown as (M) = Member State; (AC) = Associated Country; (-) = no affiliation	33 (+2): Austria (M); Belgium (M); Bulgaria (M); Croatia (M); Cyprus (M); Czechia (M); Estonia (M); Finland (M); France (M); Germany (M); Georgia (AC); Greece (M); Hungary (M); Iceland (AC); Ireland (M); Israel (AC); Italy (M); Kosovo (-); Latvia (M); Lithuania (M); Montenegro (AC); Netherlands (M); Norway (AC); Poland (M); Portugal (M); Serbia (AC); Slovak Republic (M); Slovenia (M); Spain (M); Sweden (M); <i>Switzerland (AC); United Kingdom (-);</i> Ukraine (AC)

Objective	KPIs	ESS application and source (+/- compared to previous period)
Enhancing collaboration in Europe	8. Share of users and publications per ESFRI member country	See separate table below ¹⁰
Outreach to the public	9. Engagement achieved by direct contact	Engagement, last 12 months: User Bulletin recipients: 18,211 (+1,257) ¹¹ Activities by HQ/CST: 1,264 attendees (-2) Activities by NCs: 663 attendees (+408) ¹²
	10. Outreach through media	Media articles mentioning ESS - Ever: 6,504; last 12 months: 1,041 (+139) ¹³
	11. Outreach via the RI's own web and social media	ESS website - Ever (1 June 2017 - 31 May 2023): 8,498,250 webpages accessed by 1,116,038 users. ¹⁴ ESS website - Last 12 months (1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023): 583,525 (-878,603) webpages accessed by 178,711 (-35,945) users. ¹⁵ Facebook (1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023): 2,328 followers (+159); 76,123 (-23,283) Reach. ¹⁶ LinkedIn (1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023): 2,003 followers (+612); 83,484 Impressions (+31,706); 40,373 (+18,189) Unique Impressions. ¹⁷ X (Twitter) (1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023): 19,593 followers (+2,498); 864,400 (-144,600) Impressions. ¹⁸ YouTube (1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023): 472 subscribers (+138); 7,404 (+904) views. ¹⁹ Access of on-line training (EduNet) - Ever (since August 2016): 399,766; last 12 months: N/A ²⁰

3. Downloaders data was provided by Sikt and covers the time period from 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023

4. Registered user data was provided by Sikt and covers the time period from 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023.

5. The figure for number of publications is taken from European Social Survey bibliographic indexing (Intermediate) report 2023 compiled by Brina Malnar, University of Ljubljana. This research is compiled by calendar year, meaning the number of publications in the last 12 months refers to 1 January – 31 December 2022.

Objective	KPIs	ESS application and source (+/- compared to previous period)
Optimising data use	12. Number of publicly available data sets used externally	150 (+90) ESS data files are publicly available on the ESS Data Portal. The Data Portal also includes an updated version of the ESS Data Wizard, allowing users to create a bespoke subset of data by selecting variables (questions), countries and/or round(s) of data collection. Additionally, multilevel (contextual) data compiled from external sources is available to download alongside ESS data for rounds 4-9. There are six further data files here.
Provision of scientific advice	13. Participation by RIs in policy related activities	Last 12 months: 4 (-3) ²¹
	14. Citations in policy related publications	Ever: 3,409 (new measure) ²²
Facilitating international co-operation	15. Share of users and publications per non-ESFRI member country	See separate table below ²³
	16. Number of members of the RI from non-ESFRI countries	1 ESS Member and non-ESFRI country (United Kingdom) 1 (+1) ESS Guest and non-ESFRI country (Kosovo)
Optimising management	17. Revenues	€4,855,933.12 (2021-23) ²⁴

6. This figure is taken from the February 2022 report: SUSTAIN-2: Impact of the European Social Survey. This bibliometric analysis was undertaken by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) on behalf of Technopolis Group (UK). This report was produced for the Horizon 2020 project, SUSTAIN-2 (grant agreement number 871063). There are currently no plans to repeat this work as part of the ESS ERIC work programme

7. Registered user data was provided by Sikt and covers the time period from 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023

8. This information has only been collated since 2021.

9. The information was compiled by ESS HQ for the period 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023 and relied on submissions by the CST and national teams. There is no formal training provided in the ESS ERIC work programme.

10. Registered user data per country was provided by Sikt and covers the time period from 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023. The figure for number of publications is taken from European Social Survey bibliographic indexing (Intermediate) report 2023 compiled by Brina Malnar, University of Ljubljana. This research is compiled by calendar year, meaning the number of publications in the last 12 months refers to 1 January – 31 December 2022.

11. This is the number of people who had opted in to receive the ESS e-newsletter (via their ESS Data Portal account) at the end of May 2023.

12. The information was compiled by ESS HQ for the period 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023 and relied on submissions by the CST and national teams.

13. Media monitoring for ESS mentions began in January 2016. The figure for the last 12 months is taken from the annual media monitoring report, covering the period from 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023.

Table A5.2. KPI 8 and 15. Share of users and publications per ESFRI and non-ESFRI member country

Country	Registered Users			Publications		
	May 2023	May 2022	Last 12 months ²⁵	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2021	Last 12 months ²⁶
Austria (M)	5632	4830	802 (+297)	110	94	16 (+6)
Belgium (M)	15201	14134	1067 (+59)	399	379	20 (+2)
Bulgaria (M)	835	760	75 (-44)	42	32	10 (+4)
Croatia (M)	563	491	72 (+17)	19	16	3 (-2)
Cyprus (M)	422	404	18 (-7)	18	18	0 (-1)
Czechia (M)	1731	1592	139 (+20)	66	66	0 (-4)
Estonia (M)	3335	3018	317 (+38)	95	92	3 (+1)
Finland (M)	3638	3415	223 (-31)	180	168	12 (-2)
France (M)	8078	7281	797 (+25)	153	138	15 (-2)
Germany (M)	23313	21252	2061 (-60)	865	783	82 (+6)
Georgia (AC)	84		84 (N/A)	0	0	0
Greece (M)	1808	1685	123 (+38)	95	84	11 (-)
Hungary (M)	3769	3423	346 (-10)	126	107	19 (+6)
Iceland (AC)	545	526	19 (+6)	12	12	0 (+1)
Ireland (M)	2895	2673	222 (+32)	145	132	13 (-)
Israel (AC)	2148	2014	134 (+24)	126	110	16 (+7)
Italy (M)	10472	9278	1194 (+115)	401	351	50 (+1)
Kosovo (-)	64		64 (N/A)	2	2	0

14. ESS website data is taken from Google analytics. Data is only available from 1 June 2017.

15. ESS website data is taken from Google analytics. The numbers have fallen significantly from the previous period, due to ESS data moving to the ESS Data Portal. Visitor analytics for the Data Portal are not available.

16. ESS Facebook data is taken from Facebook insights.

17. ESS LinkedIn data is taken from LinkedIn.

18. ESS Twitter data is taken from Twitter Analytics.

19. ESS YouTube data is taken from YouTube.

20. The information is taken from Google Analytics via Sikt. Since 1 June 2022, EduNet has not been accessible.

21. The information was compiled by ESS HQ for the period 1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023 and relied on submissions by the CST and national teams.

22. This figure is taken from overton.io as reported by an external policy consultant, EFIS Centre, as part of SUSTAIN-2: "As of June 2023, references to the European Social Survey were found in 3,409 policy documents stemming from 370 sources."

	Registered Users			Publications		
Latvia (M)	452	423	29 (-2)	8	8	0 (-1)
Lithuania (M)	1688	1542	146 (-66)	41	35	6 (-4)
Montenegro (AC)	251	212	39 (+11)	0	0	0 (-)
<i>Country</i>	<i>May 2023</i>	<i>May 2022</i>	<i>Last 12 months²⁵</i>	<i>Jan-Dec 2022</i>	<i>Jan-Dec 2021</i>	<i>Last 12 months²⁶</i>
Netherlands (M)	13673	12409	1264 (+188)	636	578	58 (+6)
Norway (AC)	11469	10400	1069 (-57)	244	212	32 (+12)
Poland (M)	9087	8399	688 (-76)	198	167	31 (+10)
Portugal (M)	4852	4523	329 (-88)	191	179	12 (-2)
Serbia (AC)	494	359	135 (+51)	21	15	6 (-9)
Slovak Republic (M)	595	564	31 (-)	32	30	2 (+2)
Slovenia (M)	5066	4953	113 (-59)	57	53	4 (+1)
Spain (M)	14264	13027	1237 (-498)	435	398	37 (-11)
Sweden (M)	5734	5151	583 (+46)	376	350	26 (-5)
<i>Switzerland (AC)</i>	6200	5742	458 (+125)	255	227	28 (+9)
Ukraine (AC)	2553		2553 (N/A)	23	19	4 (N/A)
United Kingdom (-)	19160	17522	1638 (-42)	975	896	79 (-8)

23. Registered user data per country was provided by Sikt and covers the time period from 1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023. The figure for number of publications is taken from European Social Survey bibliographic indexing (Intermediate) report 2023 compiled by Brina Malnar, University of Ljubljana. This research is compiled by calendar year, meaning the number of publications in the last 12 months refers to 1 January - 31 December 2022.

24. This figure of €4,855,933.12 for the 2021-23 biennial period is the total budget for the Core Scientific Team (CST). This does not include funding for national teams and fieldwork collection that is funded from national sources. This figure does not include revenues received from the European Commission for Horizon 2020 projects which are often administered by the ESS ERIC but not necessarily spent on the CST. Up to and including the SERISS project, the ESS received €26,289,759.69 from the European Commission. The ESS ERIC Work Programme has been funded by the General Assembly since June 2013.

25. The numbers in brackets represent +/- on the previous annual period.

26. The numbers in brackets represent +/- on the previous annual period.

Annex 6

Members, Observers and Guests of the European Social Survey ERIC

Members	Observers	Guests
1. Austria	1. Switzerland	1. Kosovo
2. Belgium		2. Greece
3. Bulgaria		3. Ukraine
4. Croatia		
5. Cyprus		
6. Czechia		
7. Estonia		
8. Finland		
9. France		
10. Germany		
11. Hungary		
12. Iceland		
13. Ireland		
14. Israel		
15. Italy		
16. Latvia		
17. Lithuania		
18. Montenegro		
19. Netherlands		
20. Norway		
21. Poland		
22. Portugal		
23. Serbia		
24. Slovak Republic		
25. Slovenia		
26. Spain		
27. Sweden		
28. UK (Host country)		

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