

The European Social Survey (ESS): An overview

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Christian Schnaudt
(christian.schnaudt@gesis.org)

GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

- A set of small navigation icons typically found in Beamer presentations, including symbols for back, forward, search, and other slide controls.

Facts and figures

Facts

- cross-national survey with a focus on Europe
- interdisciplinary, academic background
- established and first conducted in 2001/2002
- data for eight waves currently available (2002-2014)
- winner of the Descartes Prize of the EU Commission 2005

Figures

- >35 participating countries
- >365.000 interviews during the first seven waves
- >3.000 scientific publications based on ESS data
- publications in ~475 academic journals
- >115.000 registered users of ESS data

Structure of the ESS

- collection and dissemination of individual-level data and dissemination of contextual-level data ('multilevel' and 'media claims')
- realization and repetition every two years
- structure of the **ESS main questionnaire**:
 - main part of the survey consisting of a '**core module**' and so called '**rotating modules**'
 - the 'core module' comprises items of permanent scientific interest that are repeated (mostly unchanged) in every round of the ESS
 - the 'rotating modules' comprise more specific items that are not included in every ESS round (but may be repeated)

Scope of the ESS

Geographical coverage

- in total 36 countries in the first eight waves (2002-2016)
- the composition of countries across ESS rounds is not constant (!)
- 16 of 36 countries participated in all seven rounds
- 27 of 36 countries participated in at least four ESS rounds
- 7 of 36 countries participated in only one or two ESS rounds
- clear focus on Europe (but Israel, Russian Federation, Turkey)
- smallest country: Luxembourg; biggest country: Russian Federation

Outline

- 1 Introduction: The ESS at a glance
- 2 Methodological aspects of the ESS**
- 3 The ESS individual-level data
- 4 The ESS multilevel data
- 5 Additional resources concerning the ESS

Methodological cornerstones of the ESS

- translation of the English master questionnaire into any language that is spoken as a first language by five per cent or more of a country's population (TRAPD procedure: **T**ranslation, **R**evue, **A**djudication, **P**re-Testing, **D**ocumentation)
- random probability sampling at all stages of the selection process (e.g., multi-stage or stratified random sampling)
- "target population": representative samples for all individuals of at least 15 years of age living permanently in a private household
- common fieldwork period of 4 months for all participating countries (usually September-December)
- exclusive use of standardized personal, face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes (CAPI or PAPI)

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Topics and contents of the 'core module'

- 1 Media and Social Trust
- 2 Politics
- 3 Well-Being, Exclusion, Religion, National and Ethnic Identity
- 4 Gender, Year of Birth and Household Grid
- 5 Socio Demographics
- 6 Human Values

Topics and contents of the 'rotating modules'

- 1 Immigration (2002, 2014)
- 2 Citizen Involvement (2002)
- 3 Health and Care Seeking (2004)
- 4 Economic Morality (2004)
- 5 Family, Work and Well-Being (2004, 2010)
- 6 Timing of Life (2006)
- 7 Personal and Social Well-Being (2006, 2012)
- 8 Welfare Attitudes (2008, 2016)
- 9 Ageism (2008)
- 10 Justice (2010)
- 11 Democracy (2012)
- 12 Social Inequalities in Health (2014)
- 13 Public Attitudes to Climate Change (2016)

Access to the ESS individual-level data

- data from all seven waves of the ESS incl. all ESS documentation materials, guidelines and project specifications are provided on the [int. ESS website](#)
- for using the data a short [registration](#) is necessary
- data sets are available via download (formats: Stata, SPSS, SAS) or an [Online Analysis Tool](#)
- for individually modified data sets (only certain variables, countries or rounds), see the '[ESS Cumulative Data Wizard](#)'
- the [Online Analysis Tool](#) allows for basic analyses (cross tabulation, correlations, regression) without the need to download the data

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The ESS multilevel data: Topics and access

The research potential of the ESS individual-level data can be extended by the **ESS multilevel data**. The ESS multilevel data allows to complement the individual-level data with additional information on the context in which respondents live.

Topics

- 1 Demography und geography
- 2 Economy
- 3 Health
- 4 Education
- 5 Crime
- 6 Political institutions
- 7 Indices

Access

- **ESS Multilevel Data Download**
- **ESS Multilevel Bulk Download**
- **'Online Browsing'**

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Additional information on the ESS

- 1 **ESS Infoclip:** short video clip on the ESS (in German)
- 2 **ESS EduNet:** E-learning courses and tutorials on a variety of topics regarding the ESS
- 3 **ESS Key Findings / Topline Series:** Brochures and booklets that summarize main findings from the ESS
- 4 **ESS Bibliography:** bibliography database containing all (scientific) publications based on the ESS
- 5 **International ESS Website:** *the* meta-resource on all topics relevant for the ESS (for information on the German part of the ESS, see the **German ESS website**)