

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY

The European Social Survey was first developed at the European Science Foundation in 1995.

Our project was established to create a reliable dataset that allows academics, researchers and policy makers to map and measure social attitudes, beliefs and behaviours between and across European nations.

Every two years since 2002/03, around 1,500 face-to-face interviews have been conducted in participating countries.

Individuals are selected by strict random probability methods at every stage using sampling frames of individuals, households or addresses.

They represent the entire residential population aged 15 and over in each country.

38 countries have taken part in at least one round of our survey, and 15 countries have participated in all nine rounds.

With the completion of the ninth round in 2018/19, we've now conducted more than 425,000 interviews across 38 countries since 2002.

What do we ask our respondents?

Over 200 questions - all carefully translated into each language - are asked in each round of the survey.

Most are repeated every round.

We cover two topics proposed by researchers from all scientific disciplines in an open competition.

We also ask questions on socio-demographics, so responses to questions can be analysed by age, gender, economic profile, ethnicity and a range of other factors.

Once the data is collected and anonymised by each national team, it is added to our archive.

The data is weighted to ensure that the sample of respondents accurately reflects the demographics of the entire population.

Everyone can access the data by using our Online Analysis Tool or by downloading it for use in statistical software programmes.

Over 160,000 people from all over the world have accessed our data so far.

Almost 4,500 academic papers that analysed our data were published from 2003 to 2018 and over 1,000 media articles using our data were published in 2019.

In 2005 The European Social Survey became the first social science project to win the Descartes Prize for Research & Science Communication.

In 2006, 2008 and 2010, we were added to the European Union's European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmap and recognised as a Landmark infrastructure in 2016.

We became a European Research Infrastructure Consortium in 2013 allowing us to be recognised as a legal entity, funded by governments in participating countries.

In 2019, we secured the highest number of members of any European Research Infrastructure Consortium.

Finally, we were awarded the 2020 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award by the Comparative Politics Section of the American Political Science Association.

Our data has been used all over the world to Advance scientific debate Change and implement government policy Improve the quality of survey methodology and quantitative data collection Educate the next generation of social scientists and to understand, measure, inform and seek positive change in the world.