

B1.7 European Social Survey



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Main aims

The ESS is designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behavioural patterns of its diverse populations.

Subjects covered in the questionnaire include participation in society, religious and political beliefs, views about democracy as well as questions designed to find out how people think their lives are going.

Current stage:

After intensive preparations and pretesting, fieldwork for the sixth wave started in September 2012 and is expected to be finished by early January 2013 (net 3,000 cases).

Modules:

Beside a core module of socio-demographic and substantive indicators, each wave consists of two rotating modules.

Waves and Modules

- **ESS Round 1: 2002:** Immigration and asylum; Citizen involvement and democracy
- **ESS Round 2: 2004:** Family, work and well-being; Economic morality; Health and care seeking
- **ESS Round 3: 2006:** Personal and social well-being; Perceptions of the life course
- **ESS Round 4: 2008:** Experiences and Expressions of Ageism; Welfare attitudes
- **ESS Round 5: 2010:** Work, family and well-being; Trust in criminal justice
- **ESS Round 6: 2012:** Personal and social wellbeing; Europeans' understandings and evaluations of democracy

Methods / Data

The ESS is a biennial time series survey:

Sampling:

Strict random (probability) samples with comparable estimates based on full coverage of the eligible residential populations aged 15+

Geographic space:

33 European countries (including Israel and Turkey)

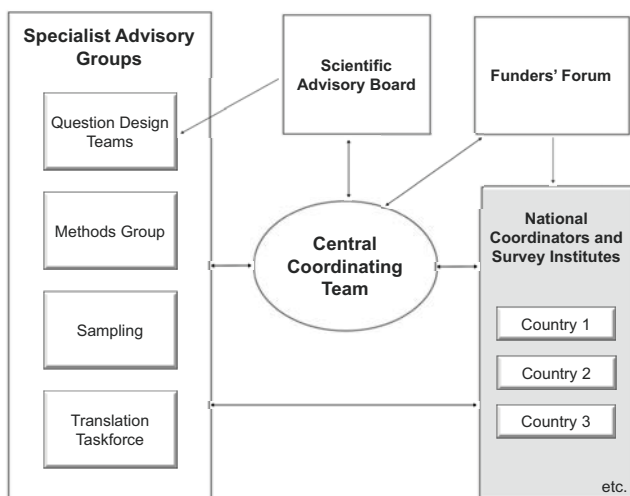
Interview Method:

Face-to-face interviews using standardized questionnaires

Time span covered:

2002 – ongoing

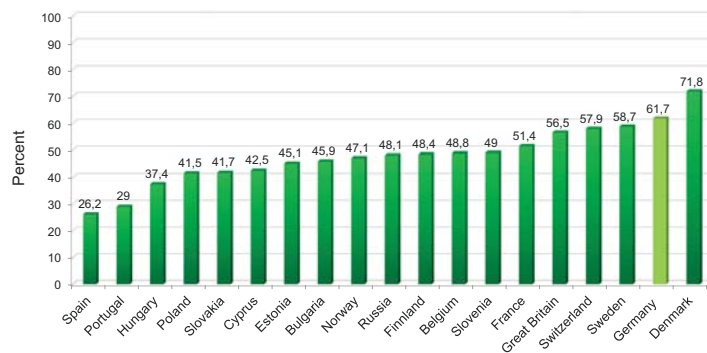
Organizational Structure



Findings

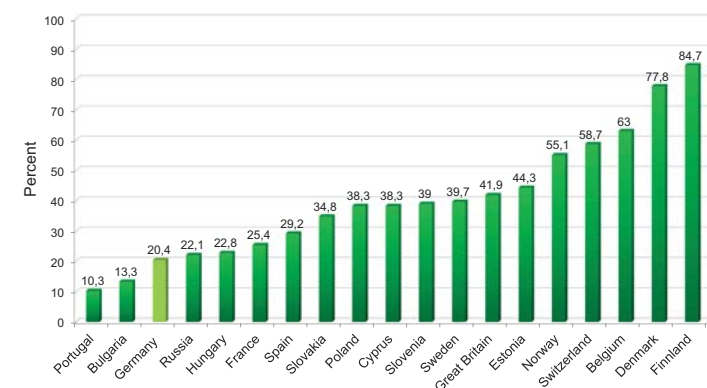
Question: „How interested are you in politics?“

Percentage of citizens who are very or quite interested in politics (2008)



Question: „Now, please say what you think overall about the state of education in [country] nowadays?“

Percentage of citizens content or very content with the state of education (2008)



Publications



Keil, Silke I./van Deth, Jan W (Eds.) (2012): *Deutschlands Metamorphosen. Ergebnisse des European Social Survey 2002 bis 2008*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.



Keil, Silke I/ Oskar W. Gabriel (Eds.) (2013): *Society and Democracy in Europe*. London, New York: Routledge Advances in European Politics.



Van Deth, Jan W. (Ed.) (2004): *Deutschland in Europa. Ergebnisse des European Social Survey 2002-2003*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.