

NatCen

Social Research that works for society

Webinar: Introduction to accessing and using European Social Survey data



9th May 2018



Contents

- Introduction to the European Social Survey
- Some examples of the data
- How to access the data
 - Online analysis
 - Downloading the datasets



Introduction to the ESS



1.

ESS History

First funded in 2001

Round 1 fieldwork in 2002

Won the Descartes Prize for Research 2005

Became European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) 2013

ESS Background

Academically-driven, cross-national survey measuring attitudes

Run biennially since 2002

8 Rounds completed across 36 countries

Over 370,000 interviews completed

All data freely available for non-commercial use

Over 110,000 registered users worldwide

Over 3,000 academic publications used the data

Methodology

Random probability sampling

Face-to-face surveys lasting approximately one hour

Mainly using computer-assisted interviewing

Questionnaires translated for 'functional equivalence' using local experts

Strong focus on standardisation of interviewer approach through training

Response maximisation

Consistent data format across all countries

Participating countries

8 ROUNDS

- 1 Belgium
- 2 Finland
- 3 France
- 4 Germany
- 5 Hungary
- 6 Ireland
- 7 Netherlands
- 8 Norway
- 9 Poland
- 10 Portugal
- 11 Slovenia
- 12 Spain
- 13 Sweden
- 14 Switzerland
- 15 UK

7 ROUNDS

- 16 Austria
- 17 Czech Republic
- 18 Denmark
- 19 Estonia

6 ROUNDS

- 20 Israel
- 21 Slovakia

5 ROUNDS

- 22 Lithuania
- 23 Russia
- 24 Ukraine

4 ROUNDS

- 25 Bulgaria
- 26 Cyprus
- 27 Greece
- 28 Italy

3 ROUNDS

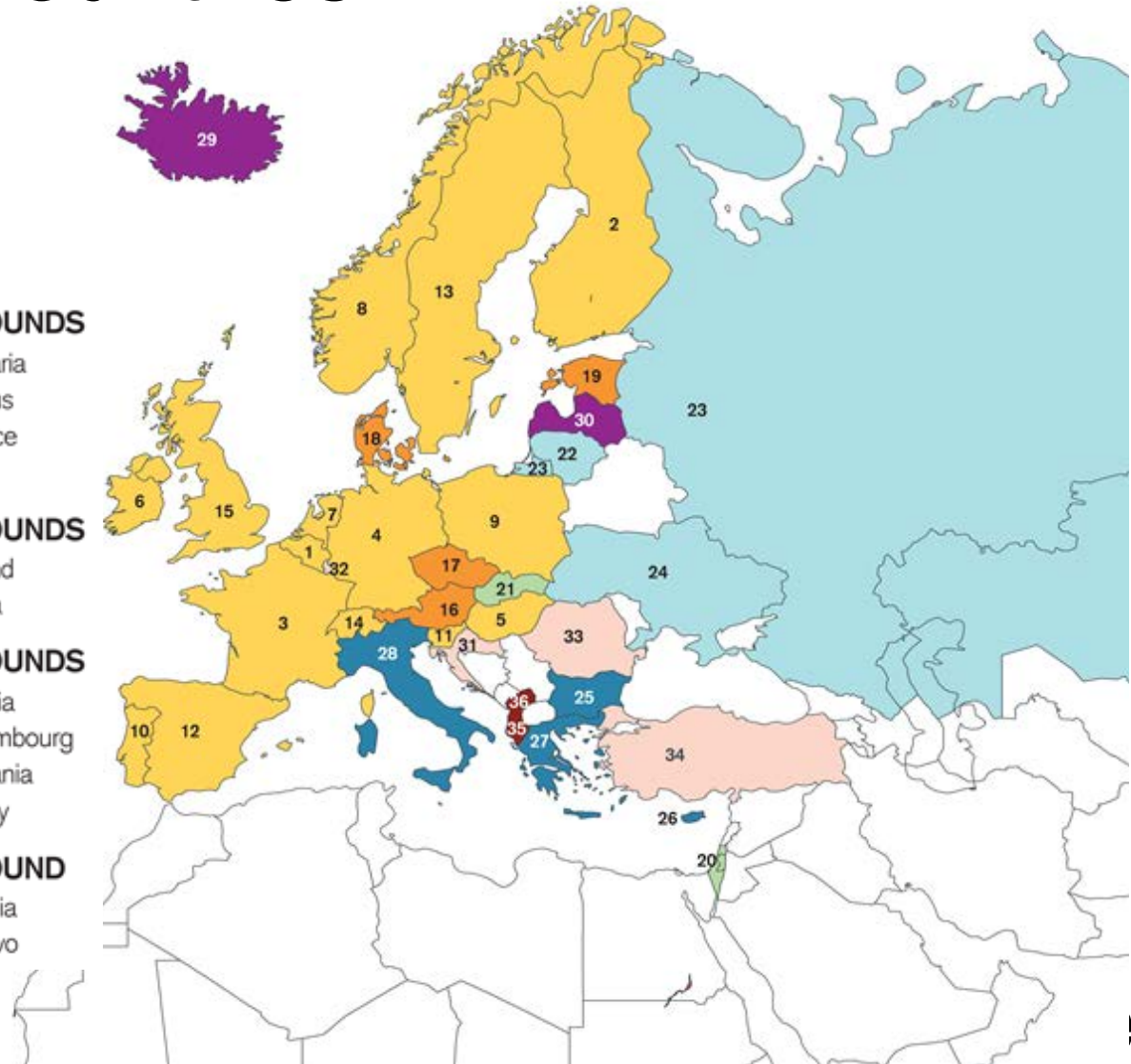
- 29 Iceland
- 30 Latvia

2 ROUNDS

- 31 Croatia
- 32 Luxembourg
- 33 Romania
- 34 Turkey

1 ROUND

- 35 Albania
- 36 Kosovo

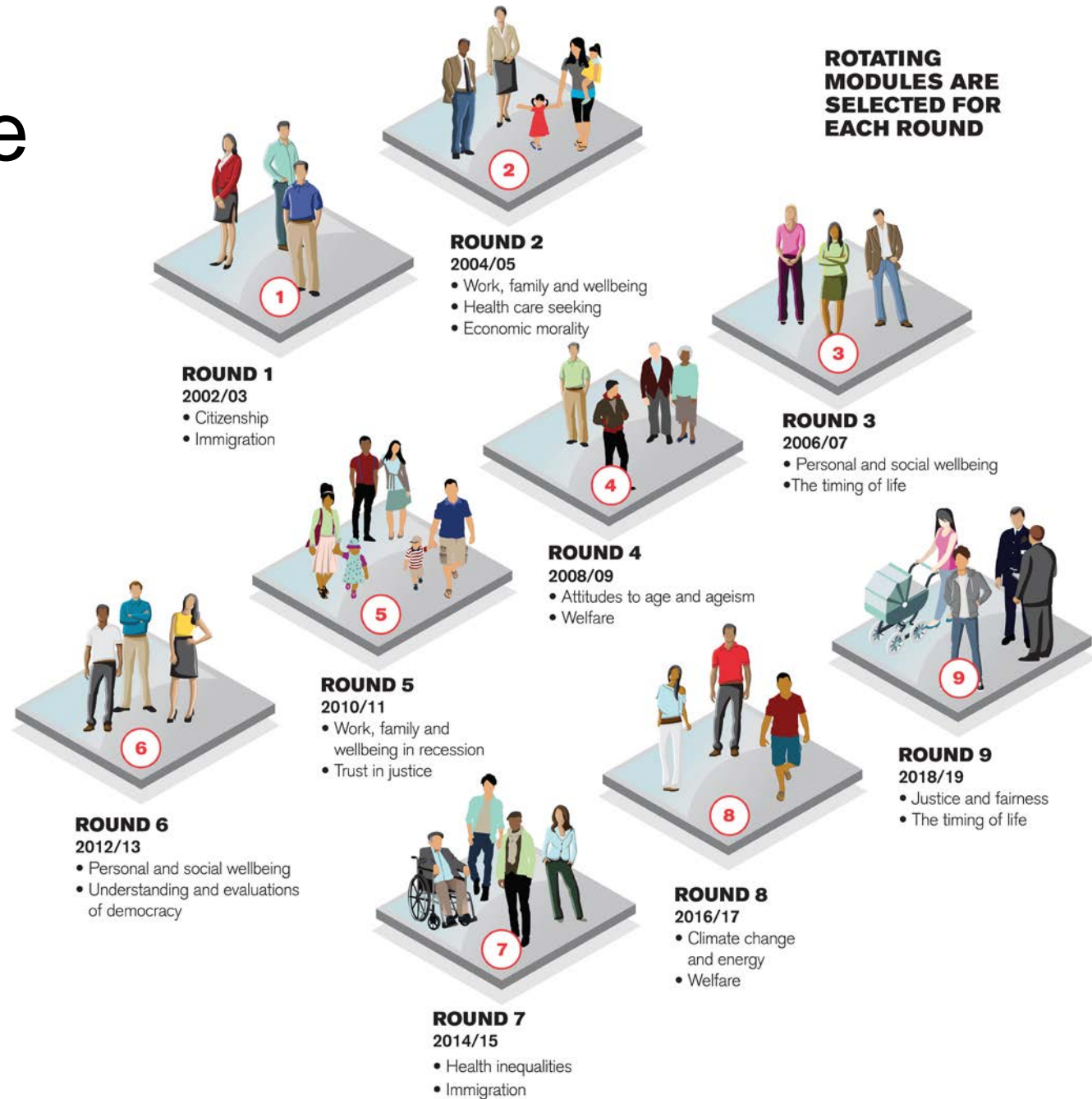


Questionnaire

CORE TOPICS IN ALL ROUNDS

- Crime
- Democracy and politics
- Human values
- Immigration
- Media use
- National and ethnic identity
- Perceived discrimination
- Religion
- Social exclusion
- Social trust/trust in institutions
- Subjective wellbeing
- Socio-demographics

**ROTATING
MODULES ARE
SELECTED FOR
EACH ROUND**



Some examples

2.

Example – climate change

Based on Round 8 rotating module on climate change

Compared climate change concern and pessimism across Europe

Differences by age and education but the patterns varied between countries

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Climate concern and pessimism

**Examining public attitudes
across Europe**



Authors: Leo Barasi and Roger Harding. Analysis by Allison Dunatchik.
Date: 11/12/2017

Example - racism

Used in combination of other sources – data from NatCen Panel, British Social Attitudes and ESS

ESS questions on biological racism from Round 7

Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) people in the UK agree that ‘some races or ethnic groups are born less intelligent’ and 44% say that some are naturally harder working



Accessing and using the data



3.

Homepage: www.europeansocialsurvey.org/

SIGN IN/REGISTER



About ESS

Findings

Methodology

Data and Documentation

Learning

search



The European Social Survey

We're an academically driven cross-national survey using high methodological standards to provide freely available data for 36 countries. MORE...



Latest news



05/03/18

First Spanish Congress announced



01/02/18

European Social Survey part of new project



Data and Documentation

Data and documentation can be accessed by



Methodological Research

The European Social Survey runs a programme

Homepage: www.europeansocialsurvey.org/

The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Social Survey. At the top right, there is a "SIGN IN/REGISTER" link. The main navigation bar includes: "European Social Survey" logo, "About ESS", "Findings", "Methodology", "Data and Documentation", and "Learning". A search bar is located to the right of the navigation. A dropdown menu is open under "Data and Documentation", listing: "Data and Documentation by Year", "Data and Documentation by Country", "Data and Documentation by Theme", "Online Analysis", "Cumulative Data (Wizard)", "Multilevel Data", "ESS Data Alerts", "Fieldwork Summary and Deviations", "Conditions of Use", "Related Studies", and "FAQ".

The European Social Survey
We're an academically driven cross-national survey using high methodological standards to provide freely available data for 36 countries. MORE...

Latest news

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www.europeansocialsurvey.org/data/online_analysis.html

Data and Documentation
Data and documentation can be accessed by

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The European Social Survey runs a programme

Adding a row variable

The screenshot displays the ESS DATA web application interface. At the top, the logo for the European Social Survey (ESS) and the text 'ESS DATA' are visible on the left, and 'NORWEGIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA SERVICES' and 'NSD' are on the right. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for 'DESCRIPTION', 'TABULATION', and 'ANALYSIS'. The 'TABULATION' tab is active, showing a dataset titled 'Dataset: ESS7-2014, ed.2.1'. A table is displayed with a header row that says 'Choose 'Add to column' to place the variable here.' and several empty rows below it. A tooltip or instruction box is overlaid on the table, stating: 'Choose 'Add to row' to place the variable here. To populate this table you need to select a variable from the browse list, click on it and then add it to row, column or layers, or use it as a measure variable.' On the left side, a tree view shows the 'ESS' structure, including 'Metadata', 'Variable Description', 'Country', 'Weights', 'Media and social trust', and 'Politics'. Under 'Politics', various variables are listed, such as 'How interested in politics', 'Political system allows people to have a say in what government does', 'Able to take active role in political group', 'Political system allows people to have influence on politics', 'Confident in own ability to participate in politics', 'Politicians care what people think', 'Easy to take part in politics', 'Trust in country's parliament', 'Trust in the legal system', 'Trust in the police', 'Trust in politicians', 'Trust in political parties', 'Trust in the European Parliament', 'Trust in the United Nations', 'Voted last national election', and 'Party voted for in last national election' for various countries like Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, and Germany.

Adding a row variable

The screenshot displays the ESS DATA web application interface. On the left, a navigation tree shows the hierarchy: ESS > Metadata > Variable Description > Politics. A context menu is open over the variable 'How confident in own ability to participate in politics', with options: 'Add to row', 'Add to column', 'Use as filter', and 'Add as measure'. The 'Add to row' option is highlighted. The main panel shows the 'DESCRIPTION' tab for the dataset 'ESS7-2014, ed.2.1'. It contains a table with a header row that says 'Choose 'Add to column' to place the variable here.' and a second row with instructions: 'Choose 'Add to row' to place the variable here. To populate this table you need to select a variable from the browse list, click on it and then add it to row, column or layers, or use it as a measure variable.' Below the table, a note explains weighting options (DWEIGHT, PSPWGHT, PWEIGHT) and provides a link to 'ESS Conditions of use'.

Adding a column variable

The screenshot displays the ESS DATA web interface. On the left, a navigation menu lists various ESS datasets and metadata options. The 'Add to column' option is highlighted. The main content area shows the dataset 'ESS7-2014, ed.2.1' and a table of variables. The variable 'How interested in politics: Categories' is selected, and its data is displayed in a table. Below the table, there is a note about weighting and a link to the ESS Conditions of use.

European Social Survey
ESS DATA
NORWEGIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA SERVICES NSD

ESS
ESS1-2002, ed.6.5
ESS2-2004, ed.3.5
ESS3-2006, ed.3.6
ESS4-2008, ed.4.4
ESS5-2010, ed.3.3
ESS6-2012, ed.2.3
ESS7-2014, ed.2.1
Metadata
Variable Description
Country
Weights
Media and communication
Politics
How interested in politics
Political system allows people to have influence on politics
Confident in own ability to participate in politics
Politicians care what people think
Easy to take part in politics
Trust in country's parliament
Trust in the legal system
Trust in the police
Trust in politicians
Trust in political parties
Trust in the European Parliament
Trust in the United Nations
Voted last national election
Party voted for in last national election, Austria
Party voted for in last national election, Belgium
Party voted for in last national election, Switzerland
Party voted for in last national election, Czech Republic

Dataset: ESS7-2014, ed.2.1
How interested in politics: Categories

	Code	Frequency	% of all	% of valid
How interested in politics				
Very interested	1	4,834	12.0	12.1
Quite interested	2	14,751	36.7	36.8
Hardly interested	3	13,102	32.6	32.7
Not at all interested	4	7,391	18.4	18.4
Refusal	7	18	0.0	-
Don't know	8	77	0.2	-
No answer	9	12	0.0	-
Total		40,185	100.0	100.0

Note In general, you must weight tables before quoting percentages from them. To apply weights, select the Weight icon and choose one or more weight variables to use. The Design weights (DWEIGHT) adjust for different selection probabilities, while the Post-stratification weights (PSPWGHT) adjust for sampling error and non-response bias as well as different selection probabilities. Either DWEIGHT or PSPWGHT must always be used. In addition, the Population size weights (PWEIGHT) should be applied if you are looking at aggregates or averages for two or more countries combined. Please see the guide [Weighting European Social Survey Data](#) for fuller details about how to use the weights.

Users of data are obliged to read the [ESS Conditions of use](#)

Adding a weight



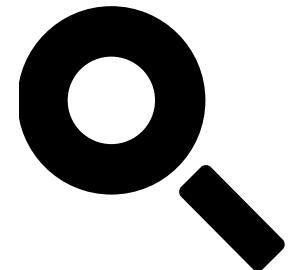
↑
Weights

Weighting your data

We usually need to weight data to ‘correct’ the profile of the respondents so it reflects the population

On ESS there are three types:

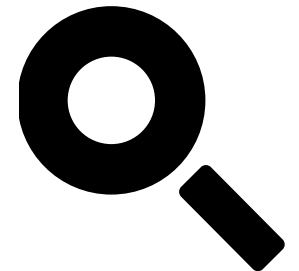
- Design weight
 - Corrects for unequal selection probabilities
- Post-stratification weight (including design weight)
 - Calibrates the sample to population estimates
- Population size weight
 - Corrects for population size when combining countries



So which weight should I use?

In most cases you will use one of two weights:

- When you are looking at a single country in isolation, use the **Post-stratification weight**
- When you are looking at two or more countries' data together, use the **population weights**



Applying the weights

The screenshot shows the ESS DATA web interface. The top navigation bar includes the European Social Survey logo, 'ESS DATA', and 'NORWEGIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA SERVICES NSD'. The interface is divided into three main sections: 'DESCRIPTION', 'TABULATION', and 'ANALYSIS'. The 'ANALYSIS' section is active, displaying the 'Dataset: ESS7-2014, ed.2.1'.

On the left, a tree view shows the dataset structure, including 'ESS', 'Metadata', 'Variable Description', 'Country', 'Weights', 'Media and social trust', and 'Politics'. The 'Weights' section is expanded, showing various weight variables.

The main content area shows the 'Weight' selection process. It includes two columns: 'Weighting variables defined in the dataset' and 'Weighting variables selected'. The 'Design weight' is listed in the first column, and 'Post-stratification weight including design weight' and 'Population size weight (must be combined with dweight or pspwght)' are listed in the second column. Below the columns are 'OK' and 'CLEAR' buttons.

A text box below the buttons provides instructions: 'Select appropriate weights from the list above. If the appropriate variables are not defined as weights search the variables in the browse list. To select, click on the variable and choose 'Add as weight'. Click 'OK' to apply the selected weight(s).'

The 'Weighting information' section provides details on 'DESIGN WEIGHTS' and 'POST-STRATIFICATION WEIGHTS'. It explains that design weights (DWEIGHT) are used to correct for unequal probabilities of selection, and post-stratification weights (PSPWGHT) are used to reduce sampling error and non-response bias.

Weighted table

DESCRIPTION TABULATION ANALYSIS

Dataset: ESS7-2014, ed.2.1

How interested in politics: Categories Country: Categories Type: Column percentage

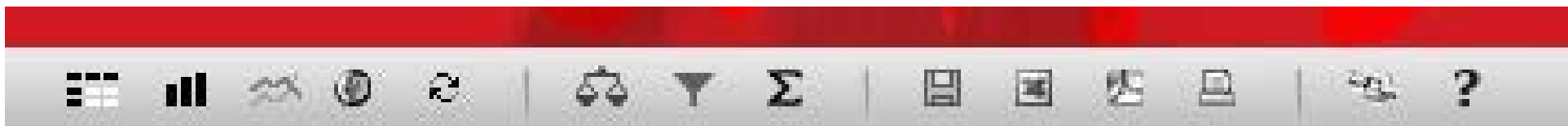
Country	Austria	Belgium	Switzerland	Czech Republic	Germany	Denmark	Estonia	Spain	Finland	France	United Kingdom	Hungary	Ireland	Israel	Lithuania
Very interested	16.1	9.9	16.3	3.1	18.6	18.8	6.9	11.7	9.8	14.0	15.5	3.6	9.6	18.0	1.9
Quite interested	35.6	35.7	44.8	15.3	45.0	45.7	38.5	30.4	45.3	31.2	41.2	22.8	30.8	35.5	23.1
Hardly interested	33.0	33.5	29.6	45.4	31.9	29.9	41.6	35.7	33.6	36.3	26.3	36.0	29.2	21.7	45.7
Not at all interested	15.4	20.9	9.2	36.3	4.4	5.7	13.0	22.1	11.4	18.5	17.1	37.6	30.4	24.8	29.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
N=	727.5	929.8	692.7	889.1	7,013.3	465.4	110.5	3,933.0	455.3	5,358.3	5,297.5	843.8	356.9	585.8	249.1

Weight is on

Note In general, you must weight tables before quoting percentages from them. To apply weights, select the Weight icon and choose one or more weight variables to use. The Design weights (DWEIGHT) adjust for different selection probabilities, while the Post-stratification weights (PSPWGHT) adjust for sampling error and non-response bias as well as different selection probabilities. Either DWEIGHT or PSPWGHT must always be used. In addition, the Population size weights (PWEIGHT) should be applied if you are looking at aggregates or averages for two or more countries combined. Please see the guide [Weighting European Social Survey Data](#) for fuller details about how to use the weights.

Users of data are obliged to read the [ESS Conditions of use](#)

Adding a subset



↑
Subset

Adding a subset

- live
- Subjective well-being, social exclusion, religion, national and ethnic identity
- Immigration
- Health and Inequality
- Gender, Year of birth and Household grid
 - Number of people living regularly as member of household
 - Gender
 - Gender of second person in household
 - Gender of third person in household
 - Gender of fourth person in household
 - Gender of fifth person in household
 - Gender of sixth person in household
 - Gender of seventh person in household
 - Gender of eighth person in household
 - Gender of ninth person in household
 - Gender of tenth person in household
 - Gender of eleventh person in household
 - Gender of twelfth person in household
 - Gender of thirteenth person in household
 - Gender of fourteenth person in household
 - Age of respondent, calculated
 - Year of birth
 - Year of birth of second person in household
 - Year of birth of third person in household
 - Year of birth of fourth person in household
 - Year of birth of fifth person in household
 - Year of birth of sixth person in household
 - Year of birth of seventh person in household
 - Year of birth of eighth person in household
 - Year of birth of ninth person in household
 - Year of birth of tenth person in household
 - Year of birth of eleventh person in household
 - Year of birth of twelfth person in household
 - Year of birth of thirteenth person in household
 - Year of birth of fourteenth person in household

Dataset: ESS7-2014, ed.2.1

Subset

Variable	Value	Categories
Age of respondent, ca	< 36	ADD

Enter subset value here:

Min and max is not available.

MORE LESS CLEAR OK

Choose a variable from the variables in the browse list and select a category from the 'Categories' box. Click 'Add' to move the selected category into the 'Value' box. Click 'More' to add further variables, and 'OK' once your selection is complete.

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Age filtered table

DESCRIPTION TABULATION ANALYSIS

Dataset: ESS7-2014, ed.2.1

How interested in politics: Categories Country: Categories Type: Column percentage

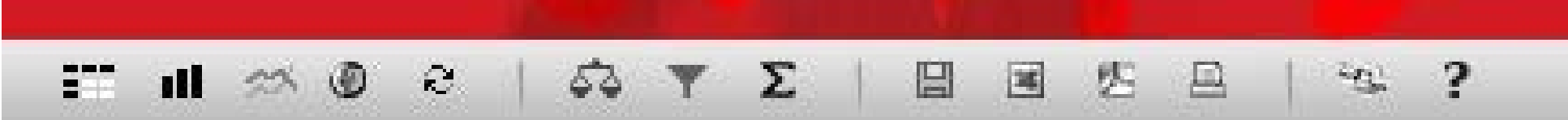
Country	Austria	Belgium	Switzerland	Czech Republic	Germany	Denmark	Estonia	Spain	Finland	France	United Kingdom	Hungary	Ireland	Israel	Lithuania	M
How interested in politics																
Very interested	12.8	6.7	8.3	2.0	11.6	13.6	4.4	8.9	6.2	8.9	9.1	1.7	5.0	13.8	0.5	
Quite interested	29.1	28.0	42.6	7.3	39.0	41.4	29.0	30.5	39.8	28.3	37.4	12.1	20.1	35.0	11.2	
Hardly interested	37.1	45.2	38.5	36.4	42.7	37.6	47.1	43.1	37.1	39.5	32.2	34.4	31.5	25.2	38.3	
Not at all interested	21.0	20.1	10.6	54.2	6.8	7.4	19.4	17.5	16.9	23.3	21.2	51.8	43.4	26.0	50.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
N=	225.2	288.2	217.1	268.9	1,928.4	144.8	35.0	1,143.0	136.7	1,676.1	1,729.6	258.8	127.1	243.4	77.7	

Filter is on Weight is on

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Output to Excel





Download

Downloading data

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Data and Documentation
Data and documentation can be accessed by


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The European Social Survey runs a programme


Cumulative data wizard

ESS Cumulative Data Wizard

– *Download your customised dataset*

The ESS Cumulative Data Wizard gives access to cumulative data from countries that have been included in the integrated ESS files in two or more rounds. Please select variables and rounds/countries to customise your own file for download. [More...](#)

 Download SPSS

 Download STATA

 Download CSV

Select Variables

- Media use and trust (0/10)
- Politics, including: political interest, efficacy, trust, electoral and oth... (387/387)
- Subjective well-being, social exclusion; religion; percieved discrim... (119/119)
- Gender, age and household composition (72/72)
- Socio-demographic profile, including: type of area, education and oc... (420/420)
- Human values scale (0/21)
- Region (0/41)
- Administrative variables: interview time, administration of split ballot (0/19)

Documentation

[ESS1–7 Editions in Cumulative Data Wizard](#)

[ESS1–7 Cumulative Variable list](#)

[Weighting ESS Data](#)

Select Rounds/Countries

ESS Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	All
All	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Austria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belgium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cyprus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Czech Republic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Documentation

Included in the 'Data and documentation' section

- Questionnaires
- Showcards
- Contact forms
- Guides to country-specific questions such as income, highest education attainment , political parties,
- Weighting guides
- Data protocol
- etc,.

Help

There is an online help function – the question mark icon

That will take you to online guidance and contact details for NSD in Norway who administer the online tool

Questions....

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Coordinator

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Visit us online, natcen.ac.uk

 [@AlunHumphrey](https://twitter.com/AlunHumphrey)

NatCen

Social Research that works for society