How to Find and Access Data in Europe
A practical introduction

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GSERM – Global School Empirical Research Methods, Summer School
Ljubljana, 21 and 28 August, 2019
Overview

- Data types and sources
- Identify what you need
- Searching data archives
- Evaluating data: quality and usefulness
- Accessing data
Data types and sources
Activity 1
Your knowledge and experience of the data landscape

- Introduce yourself
- Tell us about your research work (current, future, past)
- Did you use or you intend to use available data for your work? Tell us about it.
Types of data

Thinking about the types of data available can help you work out what you need and how to find it.

Quantitative and Qualitative
Types of data: level of analysis

- **Macro data**
  - Aggregate
  - about populations, groups, regions and countries constructed by combining information on lower level units (e.g. unemployment rate, fertility)
  - System level
  - characteristics of higher-level units such as the state or the political system e.g. electoral system (PR or single-member districts) and member of EU

- **Meso data**
  - data on collective and cooperative actors such as commercial companies, organizations or political parties

- **Microdata**
  - data from individual units (often people or households) often from surveys, a census and administrative records
## Types of data: time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectional</td>
<td>• one-point of time (a snap shot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• usually information on multiple cases and variables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeated cross-sectional</td>
<td>• cross-sectional surveys repeated with new samples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• data from the different samples allows analysis of trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time series</td>
<td>• series of data points in time order (often equally spaced in time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• aggregate macro data are often time-series data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• time points may come from sample surveys e.g. unemployment from labour force surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitudinal</td>
<td>• follow the same units over time e.g. household panel studies collect information from a sample of households in regular ‘waves’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources of data

There are many sources of data.

CESSDA Training Working Group (2017)
European social science data archives

Data collections include:
- variation between archives
- quantitative data - major source of individual level data
- qualitative
- outputs of
  - major academic projects
  - government/policy
  - small research teams
  - individual researchers
- recent and less recent data
- different languages
Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives

“enabling the research community to conduct high-quality research in the social science”

Key tasks:
- Developing standards and best practices around the management and archiving of social science data.
- Facilitating access to important data resources.
- Work done by developing tools, training and coordinating network.
- CESSDA data catalogue.
Members

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- France
- Finland
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Portugal
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UK
National data services

Activities include:
- checking the quality of data and metadata,
- maintaining catalogues,
- managing access to data through appropriate licensing,
- obtaining data and
- training for both those creating and using data.
Open Access to research data
(European Commission)

Open access (OA) can be defined as the practice of providing on-line access to scientific information that is free of charge to the user and that is re-usable.

Open access to 'scientific information' refers to two main categories:
- **Peer-reviewed scientific publications** (primarily research articles published in academic journals)
- **Scientific research data: data underlying publications and/or other data** (such as curated but unpublished datasets or raw data)

**AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE, AS CLOSED AS NECESSARY.**
HOW IT WORKS

Get funding
Write DMP
Gather data during research
Finish research
Publish results
Choose repository and deposit data
Inform OpenAIRE
the EU-funded Open Access portal

reach more people, have greater impact
avoid duplication of efforts
preserve data for future researchers

2015
of 431 signed projects
65.4%
 opted to share data
Open Access to research data

Importance of research infrastructures / data repositories

Source: EC
**Open Science** will become the modus operandi of Horizon Europe. It will go beyond the open access policy of Horizon 2020 and require open access to publications, data, and to research data management plans.
Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP)

- Founded in 1997
- Slovenian national data repository for social sciences
- 600 social science surveys with data in a data catalogue + 150 with metadata
- Cca. 800 users registered in 2017 (90% education, 10% scientific/research purpose)
- 168 survey data used for detailed secondary-analysis in 2017

- Oldest data sets in the archive (public opinion polls) are from 1966
- Wide range of topics covered
- In most cases data relates only to Slovenia / few international
- Metadata in SI and EN, datafiles mostly in SI
UK Data Service

Access to the UK’s largest collection of social, economic and population data
Support for users with training and guidance.

- major UK and cross-national surveys
- longitudinal studies (household panel and cohort studies)
- UK Census 1971-2011
- qualitative data collections
- research data in a researcher repository (Reshare)
Cross-national studies

International survey research programmes include many European countries:

- International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)
- European Social Survey
- European Values Survey
- Eurobarometer
- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement Europe (SHARE)
- Generations and gender programme (GGP)
International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

- annual programme (started in 1984)
- cross-national collaboration
- rotating thematic modules e.g.
  - Citizenship: 2004 and 2014
European Social Survey (ESS)

- A biennial cross-national survey (started in 2002)
- Highest methodological standard
- Freely available data for 36 countries (23 countries in 2016)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media and social trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human values</td>
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<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic morality</td>
<td>•</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family work and well-being</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Probably most used / cited data. 125 T registered users, 89 T data downloads

Source: ESS
Topline Results issue 6 out now

Our report identifies rates of self-diagnosed physical and mental health conditions in 21 European nations. 

More...

Latest news

06/04/17
General Assembly meeting later this month

27/03/17
Madrid to host latest event

24/03/17
ESS presents at European conferences

15/03/17
Roger Jowell Memorial Lecture 2017

Data and Documentation

Data and documentation can be accessed by round (year), by theme or by country. Data are available for download and online analysis.

Methodological Research

The European Social Survey runs a programme of research to support and enhance the methodology that underpins the high standards it pursues in every aspect of survey design, data collection and archiving.
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

- longitudinal study
- more than 140,000 individuals aged 50
- 27 European countries and Israel
- micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks
Examples: Longitudinal studies

Household panel studies following households over time and asking questions on a broad range of topics such as household composition, employment, earnings, health, social and political participation and life-satisfaction

- German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)
- Understanding society (and the British Household Panel Study)
- Swiss Household Panel
Five key data providing organizations

- Eurostat – Statistics office of European Union
- LIS - harmonised socio-economic micro datasets
- OECD – key source of comparable statistical, economic and social data
- World Bank - Free and open access to global development data
- IMF - time series data on economic and financial indicators
Eurostat

Statistical office of the European Union
Provides national and sub-national data
- economy and finance, population and social conditions, industry, trade, agriculture and fisheries, transport, environment and energy and science, technology and innovation

Microdata
- e.g European Community Household Panel, European Union Labour Force Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
Metadata for Official Statistics

MISSY (Microdata Information System) is an online service platform that provides structured metadata for official statistics. MISSY includes metadata at the study and variable level as well as reports and tools for data handling and analysis. All documentation in MISSY refers to microdata available for scientific purposes. MISSY currently documents the following official statistics microdata:

**EU-Data**

- **AES** (Adult Education Survey)
- **CIS** (Community Innovation Survey)
- **EU-LFS** (European Union Labour Force Survey)
- **EU-SILC** (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions)
- **SES** (Structure of Earnings Survey)

**National Data**

- **MZ** (German microcensus)
## Study: EU-SILC 2016

### Country Specific Information: EU-SILC 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>BE</th>
<th>BG</th>
<th>CY</th>
<th>CZ</th>
<th>DE</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>EE</th>
<th>EL/GR</th>
<th>ES</th>
<th>FI</th>
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<td>RO</td>
<td>RS</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>SI</td>
<td>SK</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SI - Slovenia**

### National Reference

### Target Sample Size

### Available Data

### Sampling Procedure

### Panel Design

### Data Collection

Source: MISSY
Factsheet: Accreditation & Data Access Conditions for SLOVENIA

Contact

Name
Statistični urad Republike Slovenije (Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, SORS)

Postal Address
Litostrojska cesta 54 SI-1000 Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Contact
info_stat@gov.si

Website
[click here]

Conditions

General Conditions
Microdata can be provided for research purposes to registered research institutions and registered researchers in both academia and government offices. "Registered" researchers have a national identifier.

As a general rule, users submit applications for access that are assessed by a Confidentiality committee (internal to SORS); the latter prepares recommendations for SORS's board of directors, which makes the final decision.

Conditions for Non-Resident Researchers
Same as national researchers (though requests from non-registered researchers should be evaluated by the internal Confidentiality committee).
Labour Force Survey - 2011

Original Title: Anketa o delovni sili - 2011

Original Alternative Title: ADS - 2011

English Alternative Title: LFS - 2011

Producer: SORS.

Abstract:
Slovenian Labour Force Survey 2011 is a Slovenian research with a tradition. The LFS measures the labour status and other characteristics of the population in a certain week of each quarter, by spreading the sample uniformly over all the weeks of the quarter. The survey provides data on size, structure and characteristics of active and inactive population. Data on personal income are added to the dataset (DURS register) – an average monthly income in either the whole year or a shorter period of time, if a person had worked for less than a year. Approximately 19,750 individuals are selected to the sample in each quarter. Non-anonymised version of LFS microdata is available to researchers, onsite or by remote access. The survey was conducted as one of the surveys of the Eurostat Labour Force Survey which includes data from 27 Member States of the European Union, four Candidate Countries and two EFTA countries (Norway and Switzerland). Comparability through time and space is possible as Eurostat distributes Labour Force Survey data of other participating countries.

Keywords: LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND GROUPINGS

Geographic coverage: Slovenia.

Universe:
The target population is the jure population, which includes persons that are mainly living in the territory of Republic of Slovenia, regardless of their nationality. Only the population, is living in individual households, is covered by the survey. Institutionalized people are not considered as a part of the jure population. Those who live in institutions (soldiers, hospitalized, imprisoned etc.) for more than 12 months, including students who don’t live at home and Slovenian citizens who live abroad permanently or temporarily, are not covered by the survey.

Sampling Procedure:
The Labour Force Survey is based on the sample taken from the Central Population Register. It is a rotating panel carried out continuously throughout the whole year. The sampling method is stratified systematic random sampling of addresses. All members of the household at the selected address are included in the sample. That means that there are approximately 16,150 individuals included in each
Direct from project websites

Some research projects share research data through project websites

http://cwed2.org/

WELCOME

The Comparative Welfare Entitlements Dataset (CWED) contains information about the structure and generosity of social insurance benefits in 33 countries around the world. Since September 2017, an updated version of CWED 2 containing a total of eight household types is available. The data contained here are an updated and extended version of CWED 1, which has been available since 2004.

This web site allows you to download customized portions of the CWED 2 data, browse the Working Paper Series or access documentary material.

Download CWED 2 data here

NEWS

June 22, 2017

Updated list of scientific works and papers is available

More than 200 peer-reviewed scientific works are using CWED2 data. You can access an updated of all books, papers, and chapters in edited volumes using our dataset here.

June 09, 2017

Forthcoming publications from CWED members
Data repositories

Digital archives collecting, preserving and displaying datasets, related documentation and metadata.

Types of repository

- Domain-specific trusted repositories (e.g. CESSDA archives) - focus on high-quality data with a potential for reuse
- Institutional research data repositories e.g. universities
- General purpose repositories e.g. Zenodo, Figshare, Harvard Dataverse
A registry of research data repositories

Search

- by subject, content type and country
- for data archives with a certificate (a trusted repository), open access or for data sets that have a persistent identifier
Identify what you need
Four ways we can use archived data

1. **New analysis: one or multiple data sources** e.g. combine micro and macro, just secondary data or secondary data combined with primary data

2. **Replication**

3. **Use of study design/methodology** (e.g. data collection tools (interview schedules & survey questions) or sampling strategies)

4. **Teaching**: Subject-based or research methods, Datasets made for training purposes – e.g. easySHARE
Identifying data needs

**Research Question**

- What is the ideal dataset for addressing this question? (Compromises needed in reality)

**Key concepts**

- Key features
- Multidimensional
- Groups of people
- Dependent/independent variables

**How to operationalise?**

- What variables/multiple variables?
- Comparable/established measures (e.g. Schwarz Human Values)
Identifying data needs

- **Population**
  - Who are you concerned with?
  - e.g. people/adults/EU citizens, migrants, local authorities

- **Geography**
  - As most recent as possible
  - a specific period (e.g. 2008-2018)
  - a long a period as possible
  - data from people at multiple time points?
  - e.g. specific countries or regions,
  - all EU countries or A10 countries (2004)

- **Time**
  - Do you need representative (random) sample?
  - Size (large sample for inferences about small groups)

- **Unit of analysis**
  - individuals, households, regions or countries?
Activity
Identify data needs

- Task: identify data needs - Evaluating data worksheet
Searching data archives

CESSDA Training Working Group (2017)
Three types of search

- Search for data on a topic
- Search for a specific dataset
- Browse data collections by type or theme
Online catalogues – searching (browsing)

SND Swedish National Data Service

Find and order data

Filter/sort

Filter:
- Kind of data
- Subject
- Principal
- Funding agency
- Availability status
- Series
- Geographic location

political attitudes

247 hits

Previous: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ... 24 25 Next

Socio-political attitudes 1975

The central aim of the study is looking at various aspects of political perception as a function of socio-political ideology. The politically perceived objects consists mainly of political parties, party-leaders and c...

- Bo Ekehammar, Stockholm University, Department of Psychology

Published: 1987

Socio-political attitudes 1979

The aim of the study is basically the same as in Socio-Political Attitudes 1975. In the

Search on site | På svenska
### Study Topics

- DEMOGRAPHY, POPULATION, VITAL STATISTICS AND CENSUSES
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH
- HOUSING AND LAND USE PLANNING
- INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
- LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
- LAW, CRIME AND LEGAL SYSTEMS
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- Not categorized
- OTHER
- POLITICS
- PSYCHOLOGY
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND GROUPINGS
- SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SYSTEMS
- SOCIETY AND CULTURE
- TRADE, INDUSTRY AND MARKETS
- TRANSPORT, TRAVEL AND MOBILITY

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study ID</th>
<th>Study title, topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUVET12</td>
<td>7 EU VET - Study on vocational education in seven European countries topic: EDUCATION, EDUCATION - vocational education, produced by: CDI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWCS01</td>
<td>Working Conditions in European Union Candidate Countries, 2001 topic: LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT - employment, produced by: EUROFOUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMAKT16</td>
<td>Intersectionality and Feminist Activism, 2016. Student Feminist Societies in the United Kingdom topic: SOCIAL, STRATIFICATION AND GROUPINGS, SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND GROUPINGS - gender and gender roles, produced by: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Morality (ESS2 2004)
Data/Variables - Round 2 (2004)

- Citizens should spend some free time helping others
- Society better off if everyone looked after themselves
- Citizens should not cheat on taxes
- Trust plumber/builder/mechanic/other repairer deal honestly with you
- Trust financial companies/bank/insurers deal honestly with you
- Trust public officials deal honestly with you
- Plumber/builder/mechanic/repairer overcharged you, how often last 5 years
- You were sold food packed to conceal worse bits, how often last 5 years
- Bank/insurance company failed to offer best deal, how often last 5 years
- You were sold things second-hand that proved faulty, how often last 5 years
- Public official asked favour/bribe for service, how often last 5 years
- How worried are you of being treated dishonestly
- Someone paying cash without receipt to avoid VAT or tax, how wrong

Source: ESS
Documentation often extensive

ESS Rounds
- ESS Round 8 (2016)
- ESS Round 7 (2014)
- ESS Round 6 (2012)
- ESS Round 5 (2010)
- ESS Round 3 (2006)
- ESS Round 1 (2002)

ESS - 2016 Data Download

The ESS-2016 Edition 1.1 was released on 9th of April 2018. Please see Version notes for complete information.

Users are obliged to read the ESS conditions of use. Please see Deviations in data for an overview of errors or deviations in different countries.

ESS8 - integrated file
Edition 1.1

Integrated files and documents
- ESS8 - integrated file, edition 1.1
- ESS8 - data from Interviewer's questionnaire, edition 1.0
- ESS8 - test data (MTMM), edition 1.0
- ESS8 - data from Contact forms, edition 2.0
- ESS8 - data from Media claims, edition 1.0

Guide to weighting of ESS data
FAQ: Combining data files, Renaming variables, Other data formats.

Fieldwork Summary and Deviations

Survey Documentation
- ESS8 Data Documentation Report ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A1 Education ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A2 Income ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A3 Political Parties ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A4 Legal Marital and Relationship Status ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A5 Population Statistics ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A6 Classifications and Coding Standards ed. 1.0
- ESS8 Appendix A7 Tables and Questions ed. 1.0

ESS Findings
Findings from the European Social Survey are available in a number of publications.

ESS Data Alerts
- ESS8 Swedish data removed - 09/04/18
- ESS7 Error in INWME and INWYFF for Netherlands - 12/02/18
- ESS8 Error in INWME5 and INWYYS for Netherlands - 24/01/18
- ESS8 Second edition (2.0) of Contact form data - 15/12/17

Questions?
Questions regarding data or documentation, please contact essdatasupport@nsd.no

Integrated File – Download
- Download ESS Round 8 (2016)
- Download ESS Round 7 (2014)
- Download ESS Round 6 (2012)
- Download ESS Round 5 (2010)
- Download ESS Round 3 (2006)
NESSTAR for online browsing and analysis

- online data browsing and analysis
- download tables, graphs, data files and study descriptions
- main catalogue or additional tool
- help pages [? at top]
## Frequency distribution of one variable

**Variable mnemonic: Main activity, last 7 days. All respondents. Post coded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>% of all</th>
<th>% of valid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paid work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25,760</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>47.6</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>4,704</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.7</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>2,978</td>
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<td>5.5</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Unemployed, not looking for job</td>
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<td>1,155</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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<td>Permanently sick or disabled</td>
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<td>0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>54,673</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** ESS; Dataset: ESS6-2012, ed.2.4
Crosstabs – frequency distribution of two variables

Socio-demographics

- Main activity
- Main activity, last 7 days
- All respondents
- Post coded
- Interviewer code
- Respondent in paid work
- Control paid work last 7 days
- Ever had a paid job
- Year last in paid job
- Employment relation
- Number of employees respondent has/had
- Employment contract unlimited or limited duration

Politics

- Placement on left right scale
- How satisfied with life as a whole
- How satisfied with present state
- How satisfied with the national society
- How satisfied with the way democracy works
- State of education in country
- State of health services in country
- Government should reduce differences in income levels

Dataset: ESS6-2012, ed.2.1

Choose 'Add to column' 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.
Comparing **life satisfaction measures** of two groups – the unemployed people looking for work versus people in paid work. Calculate the **means** for the two groups across Europe.

B20. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main activity, last 7 days. All respondents. Post coded</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
<th>Sum</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid work</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>179,423.0</td>
<td>25,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>35,885.0</td>
<td>4,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed, looking for job</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>16,028.0</td>
<td>2,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed, not looking for job</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>6,347.0</td>
<td>1,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently sick or disabled</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>7,037.0</td>
<td>1,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>83,123.0</td>
<td>12,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community or military service</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>618.0</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housework, looking after children, others</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>31,469.0</td>
<td>4,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3,599.0</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7.30</td>
<td>6.76</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>363,529.00</td>
<td>53,801</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ESS; Dataset: ESS6-2012, ed.2.4
Finding data

Advanced Search

Search criteria:

Variable contains health

Search for: datasets variables

Study Description

Bibliographic Citation

Title Statement

Full Title

Identification Number

Responsibility Statement

Authoring Entity

Production Statement

Producer

Copyright

Funding Agency/Sponsor

Distributor Statement

Data Distributor

Abbreviation

Depositor

Study Scope

Subject Information

List of Keywords

Topic Classification

Abstract

Variable v9: describe your state of health these days (Q4)

LITERAL QUESTION

Q4

All in all, how would you describe your state of health these days? Would you say it is

-5 other missing
-4 question not asked
-3 not
-2 fair
-1 very good
1 good
2 good
3 fair
4 poor
5 very poor
CESSDA data catalogue

Search data collection of all CESSDA members

https://datacatalogue.cessda.eu/
Finding data in practice

Searching can be hard
• Too many results
• No results
• Results not relevant

Evaluate search terms
• How well do they relate to your data needs?
• Spelling/language
• “Exact terms”, Boolean Logic (AND OR) – check how search tool works

Sort, filter, advance search
Multilingual thesaurus of social science concepts. Hierarchical and non-hierarchical relationships between concepts.

Use to:
- broaden or narrow a search
- find terms used to index data in other languages

In future, ELSST will be used more widely to index data & embedded within search tool.

elsst.ukdataservice.ac.uk
Activity
Searching for data

Task
Search for data using a data catalogue

• Any national data service

• See CESSDA for links: www.cessda.eu/Consortium
Evaluating data: quality and usefulness
Metadata and documentation

Metadata ("data about data")

- descriptors that facilitate cataloguing data and data discovery.

Documentation

- user guides, survey questionnaires, interview schedules and fieldwork notes

- Catalogue records (with links to documentation)
- Quality can vary
- Efforts to improve data documentation
- Check for helpdesks/training
What to look for when assessing quality?

Metadata ("data about data"): 
- Why the data was created? 
- What the dataset contains? 
- How data was collected? 
- Who collected the data and when? 
- How was the data processed? 
- Any manipulations done to the data? 
- What quality assurance procedures were used?
But is it useful?

Compare:
- key concepts
- population
- geographical area
- time period
- units of analysis
- study/sample design
Accessing data

Now finally, I’ve found some great data, how to I get it?

- Licenses
- Access process
- Getting started
Open data
any user, no registering (acknowledge source)

Registration
- often with institutional user name and password
- may wait for user name or password
- register use of data

Terms and conditions
- not trying to identify individuals, households or organisations
- not distributing data to others
- “data is for non-commercial use only” or for “use in research or teaching” only.

Download
from catalogue (but sometimes complete a request form)
Data access arrangements 2

- Sometimes permission from the data owners required (= an additional stage)
- Sensitive or confidential data = more strict (and lengthy) process
- Some services operate a dedicated safe room or safe access service
- Access by users outside the country can be prohibited for confidential data
- Free (except for commercial use and supplementary services)

If you are unsure, ask the relevant data service for help.
And finally...remember to cite data

**Why?**
- It gives credit to the data creators
- It makes data easier to find

**How?**
- Give enough information to locate the exact version of the data
- Look for recommended citation
- Use persistent identifiers (Digital Object Identifier - DOI)

CESSDA Training Working Group (2017)
Citation requirements

The Core Scientific Team of the ESS requests that references to ESS data and the Data Documentation Reports should use the form of words listed below.

To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

Citation of data

- ESS Round 8: European Social Survey Round 8 Data (2016). Data file edition 1.0. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC.
- ESS Round 7: European Social Survey Round 7 Data (2014). Data file edition 2.1. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC.
- ESS Round 6: European Social Survey Round 6 Data (2012). Data file edition 2.3. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC.
- ESS Round 5: European Social Survey Round 5 Data (2010). Data file edition 3.3. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC.
- ESS Round 2: European Social Survey Round 2 Data (2004). Data file edition 3.5. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC.
- ESS Round 1: European Social Survey Round 1 Data (2002). Data file edition 6.5. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC.

Citation of documentation


Questions?

Questions regarding data or documentation, please contact essdatasupport@nsd.no

Integrated File – Download

Download ESS Round 8 (2016)
Download ESS Round 7 (2014)
Download ESS Round 6 (2012)
Download ESS Round 5 (2010)
Download ESS Round 4 (2008)
Download ESS Round 3 (2006)
Download ESS Round 2 (2004)
Download ESS Round 1 (2002)

Online Analysis

Open ESS Round 8 (2016)
Open ESS Round 7 (2014)
Open ESS Round 6 (2012)
Open ESS Round 5 (2010)
Open ESS Round 4 (2008)
ELEMENTS OF DATA CITATION

- **Author**: Name(s) of each individual or organizational entity responsible for the creation of the dataset.
- **Date of Publication**: Year the dataset was published or disseminated.
- **Title**: Complete title of the dataset, including the edition or version number, if applicable.
- **Publisher and/or Distributor**: Organizational entity that makes the dataset available by archiving, producing, publishing, and/or distributing the dataset.

- **Electronic Location or Identifier**: Web address or unique, persistent, global identifier used to locate the dataset (such as a DOI). Append the date retrieved if the title and locator are not specific to the exact instance of the data you used.

These are the minimum elements required for dataset identification and retrieval. Fewer or additional elements may be requested by author guidelines or style manuals. Be sure to include as many elements as needed to precisely identify the dataset you have used.

Source: IASSIST – Quick guide to Data Citation

Data Management Expert Guide

This guide is designed by European experts to help social science researchers make their research data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR).

You will be guided by different European experts who are - on a daily basis - busy ensuring long-term access to valuable social science datasets, available for discovery and reuse at one of the CESSDA social science data archives.

Target audience and mission

This guide is written for social science researchers who are in an early stage of practising research data management. With this guide, CESSDA wants to contribute to professionalism in data management and increase the value of research data.

Overview

If you follow the guide, you will travel through the research data lifecycle from planning, organising, documenting, processing, storing and protecting your data to sharing and publishing them. Taking the whole roundtrip will take you approximately 15 hours, however you can also hop on and off at any time.

www.cessda.eu/DMEG
More literature

- Quick reference guide: Using administrative data for research
- Quick reference guide: Social media and research
- Guidelines on the use of social media data in survey research

- Data Management Expert Guide (CESSDA)
Questions?