

European Social Survey

**CONSIDERING COOPERATION
BEYOND EUROPE**

**OPPORTUNITIES AND
CHALLENGES FOR THE ESS**

CSDI March 2018

MIC
Limerick
Ireland



- **Cross-national general social survey in Europe**
- **Infrastructure not a project**
- **Aimed to avoid the problems found from limited coordination and limited harmonisation (ie low comparability)**
- **High level of input harmonisation (Sampling, Q'aire design, translation)**
- **High levels of coordination. Rigorous methods.**
- **Rejection of methods undermine comparability (mixed mode)**
- **Maximum transparency**
- **Free, open data available on-line (soon via EOSC)**

Why would ESS go beyond Europe?

- **European Commission want their infrastructures to be global**
- **Some research questions require a global dataset eg attitudes towards climate change and energy security**
- **Other research questions benefit from additional context eg welfare module (power increased if USA included)**
- **As South and East of world change increasingly important to understand differences and similarities to Europe**
- **Some surveys / PIs have approached the ESS about cooperation**
- **Opportunity for ESS to increase value of its own data**
- **Contribute to moving our field to next level! Need to move forward**
- **So organised a workshop in London (H2020 European Commission funded)**

Global Links Workshop (September 2017)



South African Social Attitudes Survey



European *Values* Study





- Aim was to see if / how might work together more closely to:
 - increase substantive overlap and
 - increase knowledge exchange on methods to raise standards
- Presentations from the social surveys – global, regional, national (but cross-cultural)
- Synergies for Europe’s Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) was presented and discussed
- Future Substantive Cooperation
- Future methodological cooperation

Brief for survey specific talks (September 2017)

- **Background to each survey**
- **Funding structure**
- **Methodology of the questionnaire**
- **Topics covered by the survey**
- **Frequency of fieldwork collection**
- **Challenges in undertaking survey**
- **Dissemination activities**

Possible future collaboration – democracy theme

- Consider submitting joint proposal for Horizon 2020 call on Trust in Government in 2019
- Decreasing trust in Government / dissatisfied democrats
- Ethnic diversity within countries
- How the majority suppress minority rights
- Is democracy an emotionally loaded term?
- Structural equivalence scales across types of democratic regimes
- The role of academic experts and institutions
- The role of the European Union in democracy
- The role of democracy in social desirability
- Trust in democracy
- Understandings of 'populism' and how to measure it
- What does supporting democracy mean?
- Why people support 'hybrid' regimes?

Possible future collaboration – immigration theme

- **As with democracy, immigration is a topic that is covered by (almost) all surveys represented**
 - Attitudes towards migrants
 - Country of origin
 - Diaspora survey
 - Education of migrants
 - Hard to reach survey groups (refugees, institutionalised)
 - Issues around ancestry / demographics
 - Perceived discrimination
 - Perceptions of immigrant threat
 - Reason(s) for emigrating
 - Religion
 - Returning migrants
 - Surveys amongst migrants (pooling data)

- Julie Lee (University of Western Australia) attended workshop
- Two-day preparation meeting with the ESS and Shalom Schwartz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Lee attended our recent ESS National Coordinators' Forum
- Fitzgerald and Schwartz were keynote speakers at the Values Impact Forum on 22-23 February 2018 (University of Western Australia)
- Lee & Fitzgerald are developing an application for an Australian Social Survey based on the ESS – full details under development

Continued SASAS collaboration

- The 2015 South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) included ESS modules on health (Round 7), democracy (Round 6) and justice (Round 5) via the ESRC Newton Fund grant to Fitzgerald and Roberts
- Currently drafting an ESS publication comparing European attitudes to those in South Africa on democracy and health
- SASAS included welfare (ESS Round 8) in their 2016 iteration and climate change (ESS Round 8) in their 2017 round at own expense
- SASAS will replicate ESS questions in future
- Scope for further publications comparing Europe to South Africa

- Establishing a potential partnership with EVS
- Mitigate competition for funding
- Explore possibility of incorporating EVS data collection in ESS
- Increase value of data to national / international researchers and policymakers
- Attract participation from new countries which have previously been involved only with the EVS
- Shared methodological expertise
- ESS input harmonized cross-national web panel one possible route

Other collaborative possibilities

- The ESS will meet with representatives of the East Asian Social Survey (EASS) to discuss possible collaboration
- Proposal from International Social Survey Program (ISSP) to collect data during ESS Round 9 (2018) in Austria (not pursued)
- A number of Global Links Workshop attendees plan to co-author a CSDI paper (that's next I think!)
- Continue to develop relationships with Global Links Workshop representatives

- Most existing cross-national social surveys have long traditions and ways of working
- Most existing cross-national surveys have fixed questionnaires including demographics
- Many existing cross-national surveys have small budgets for coordination and quality control so not well placed to innovate without additional funding
- Aim is to build bilateral relationships between ESS and high quality national studies OR build new satellites similar to ESS
- Social science should reach for the stars!

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