

The ERICs in Horizon Europe

A successful case



www.eric-forum.eu



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On the ERICs and the ERIC Forum

The European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a specific legal form that facilitates the establishment and operation of Research Infrastructures with European interest.

The ERIC model

It provides a legal capacity recognised in all EU Member States, a faster process to create an international organisation, and exemptions from VAT and excise duty. This makes the ERIC model a fundamental tool for the establishment and operation of common research infrastructures.

The ERIC Forum

The ERIC Forum strategically contributes to the development of ERIC related policies by sharing best practices, tackling common challenges, fostering visibility, impact and sustainability of ERICs and contributing to the European science policies and research context.

With 32 ERICs established, the ERIC Forum has become one of the leading voices in European science policy.

ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN ERIC



A legal capacity recognized in all EU Member States



Flexibility to adapt to specific requirements of each infrastructure



A faster process than creating an international organisation



Exemptions from VAT and excise duty

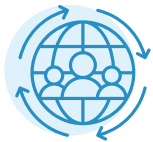
Advantages for Research

ERICs provide the European research community with access to high-quality data and cutting-edge technologies to support scientific excellence and respond to global challenges.

Moreover, they support mobility of researchers and knowledge across the ERA, promote collaboration between countries and favour a European coordination of national infrastructure capacities and capabilities.

More in details

ACCESS TO RIs



- Provide access to state-of-the-art research facilities and services for researchers from Europe and beyond, including universities, industries, SMEs, and incubators.
- Experts provide technical and scientific support to users accessing the RIs.
- ERICs offer predefined access processes, ensuring efficient and transparent use of resources.
- Researchers can access facilities either through funded projects (free access) or with their own funds (subject to capacity).

DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES



- Potential upscaling of research from TRL1 to higher TRLs (e.g. TRL7,8,9) in several research infrastructures facilities.
- Direct contribution to technological development.
- Promote the mobility of researchers and knowledge across the European Research Area, fostering international collaboration.

European Social Survey ERIC (ESS ERIC)

<https://europeansocialsurvey.org/>

The **European Social Survey (ESS)** provides high-quality open access data measuring public attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in 39 countries. Every two years since 2002/03, around 50,000 interviews are conducted across Europe with nationally representative samples on a wide range of topics.

A key aim of the ESS has always been to implement high quality standards in its methodology and to improve standards in the field of cross-national surveys more generally. The ESS has the highest number of members of any ERIC (30) and has high levels of academic, survey methods and policy impact.

SERVICES

Survey data: All survey data collected is freely available to anyone following a short registration on the ESS Data Portal. This includes data from over 500,000 interviews containing more than 250 questions in each interview. Many questions have been repeated in every round so attitudes and behaviour can be tracked over time.

Panel survey data: Data collected through an online panel survey – operated by the ESS in several European Commission-funded projects – is also available via the Data Portal. This allows for more flexibility in selecting questions for inclusion, and additional data releases in between biennial rounds.

Academic competition: In each round of the survey, multi-national teams of researchers are invited to apply to field questions in the survey. This open competition allows academics from any scientific discipline to formulate a module of up to 30 questions.

Methodological rigour: The ESS strives to implement the highest possible standards for collecting survey data that is representative of national populations. Data for Round 12 (2025/26) has been collected using both in-person and self-completion interviews, to understand mode effects before a full switch to self-completion methods in Round 13.

HORIZON EUROPE - FUNDING

Pillar I



Pillar II



Pillar III



Infra4NextGen – A SUCCESSFUL CASE

<https://infra4nextgen.com/>

<https://doi.org/10.3030/101131118>

The European Social Survey (ESS) is currently coordinating a €9.75m Horizon Europe project: Providing research infrastructure services to support Next Generation EU (Infra4NextGen). The project brings together major social science research infrastructures and high-quality surveys covering Europe, including CESSDA ERIC, the ESS, European Values Study and Generations and Gender Programme. The project is repurposing existing data and collecting new data in line with the five themes of the NextGenerationEU recovery programme: Make it... Digital, Equal, Green, Healthy, and Strong. There is also a focus on comparing younger and older people to help inform EU policy in this area.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Infra4NextGen

Grant Agreement Number 101131118

Funded under Research infrastructures

1 March 2024
29 February 2028

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

The project is led by City St George's, University of London (European Social Survey HQ, United Kingdom) alongside five other affiliated entities: GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany); University of Essex (United Kingdom); University of Innsbruck (Austria); University of Ljubljana (Slovenia); and University of Vienna (Austria).

There are 24 other beneficiaries: Bielefeld University (Germany); Cardiff University (United Kingdom); Centerdata (Netherlands); CESSDA – Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives ERIC (Norway); European Association of Geographers, EUROGEO (Belgium); Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna, IHS (Austria); Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria); Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland); Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, ICS-ULisboa (Portugal); Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Czechia); King's College London (United Kingdom); KU Leuven (Belgium); National Centre for Social Research (United Kingdom); NTNU: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway); Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, KNAW (Netherlands); Sciences Po (France); Sikt – Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Norway); Social Science Research Center, HUN-REN TK (Hungary); TÁRKI Social Research Institute (Hungary); Tilburg University (Netherlands); University of Birmingham (United Kingdom); University of Iceland (Iceland); University of Milan (Italy); and University of Turku (Finland).

OTHER INFORMATION

The project is making existing and new survey data as accessible as possible, with a clear focus on European policy priorities. Outputs include: a survey item [inventory](#); [reports summarising existing data](#); the collection of [new data](#); [analysis](#) of new data; the [E-NextGen mapping tool](#) aimed at schoolchildren; [data harmonisation](#); and [training](#) and [events](#).