The European Social Survey
Call Specification for Question Module Design Teams

Questions received regarding the R11 application process

Question 1 – 18/10/2019

The ESS guidance document published on the website states that "the ESS [...] favours topics which can be asked of everyone rather than those aimed at particular sub-groups". There are some question blocks in our application for which we would like to target a specific sub-population.

Would module applications that include both general and group-specific questions be considered relevant? If so, under what specific conditions (e.g. proportion of group specific vs. general questions in the module, size of sub-groups targeted by specific questions as a share of the general sample)?

Answer 1

In general, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the European Social Survey has preferred to date modules where all or almost all questions are asked to all respondents. However there have been 2 notable exceptions: first the ESS Round 5 Work, Family and Well-being module (abstract, proposal) and more recently the ESS Round 10 Digital Social Contacts module (abstract, proposal).
Having a look at these modules will provide some guidance on what the SAB has accepted to date in terms of asking sub-groups larger sections of the questionnaire.

Question 2 – 04/12/2019

Can I lead on a module if I do not work within an academic institute?

Answer 2

Non-for-profit institutes would not be formally excluded, however the ESS is an academically led social survey, therefore it is important to demonstrate academic leadership. In an earlier ESS module we had involvement from a British think tank but they did not operate as the module leader.

Question 3 – 04/12/2019

We are finding it hard to keep the number of applicants to 5, would it be acceptable to extend this to 6? Are there restrictions on this, i.e. can we include two from Germany and 2 from the UK and 1 from each of two other countries?
Answer 3

Applications must be made by teams of between 3 and 5 scholars, located in at least three different ESS countries. At least one applicant must be from an ESS ERIC Member or Observer country. A list of ESS countries can be found in Appendix 2 of the call document.

We would suggest having a core team of 5 with additional experts in a wider group, who could be mentioned but not co-applicants.

Question 4 – 04/12/2019

Is it a problem if a person without a completed doctorate, even if not named as the PI, plays the coordinating role for the QDT?

Answer 4

This should not be an issue. We would indeed recommend to name a senior academic as PI, even though this is not a formal requirement as per the call.